Tamil Arasu

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Benefits of President's Rule In Tamilnadu

* PRICES of Food and other commodities come tumbling down.

* Surprise raids and checks by Civil Supplies Officials ensure quality and fair price for all consumer articles.

* All pending Labour Disputes and Lock-outs resolved to benefit 24,000 workers involved.

* In 88 out of 204 big factories workers participation has come into being. Apprenticeship vacancies have been located for absorbing 7781 trained youth.

* Minimum wages have been fixed and announced for all types of agricultural labour.

* Debt Relief made available for agriculturists and economically weaker sections by moratorium till January 15, 1977.

* For establishing book banks in schools a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was released in February. Students hostels are supplied essential commodities at controlled rate.

* "It is when we get out of step that we become Weak", said the Prime Minister. Tamil Nadu is now Marching in step with the Nation.

TAMIL NADU WELCOMES THE PRESIDENT

President Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed is visiting Tamil Nadu for the first time during his Presidentship and the visit after he took over the administration of Tamil Nadu, lends it a rare significance. An Impressive welcome awaits him and the Begum. In the picture along side the President is seen in his State Drive to Parliament.

Tamil Arasu

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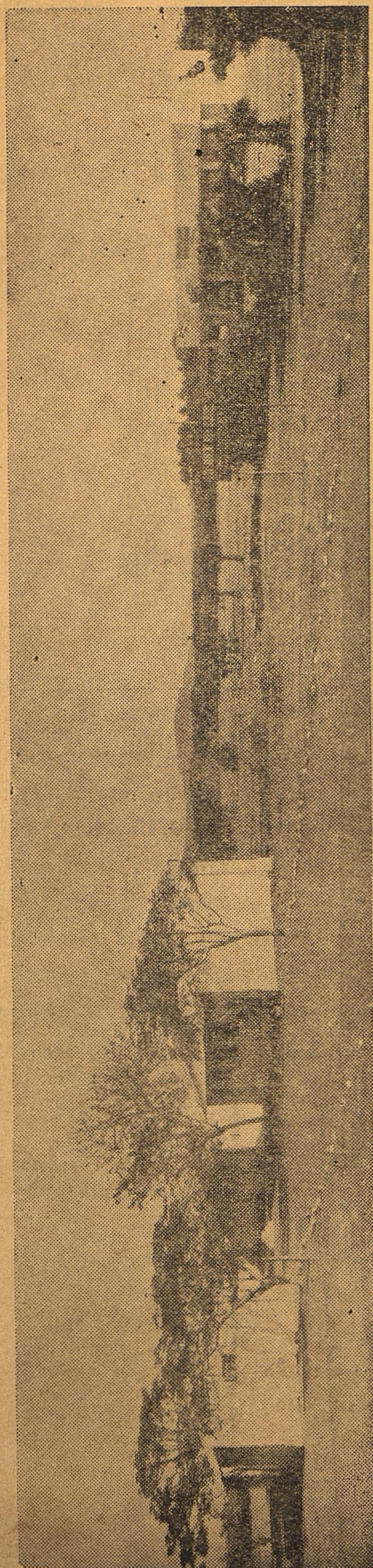


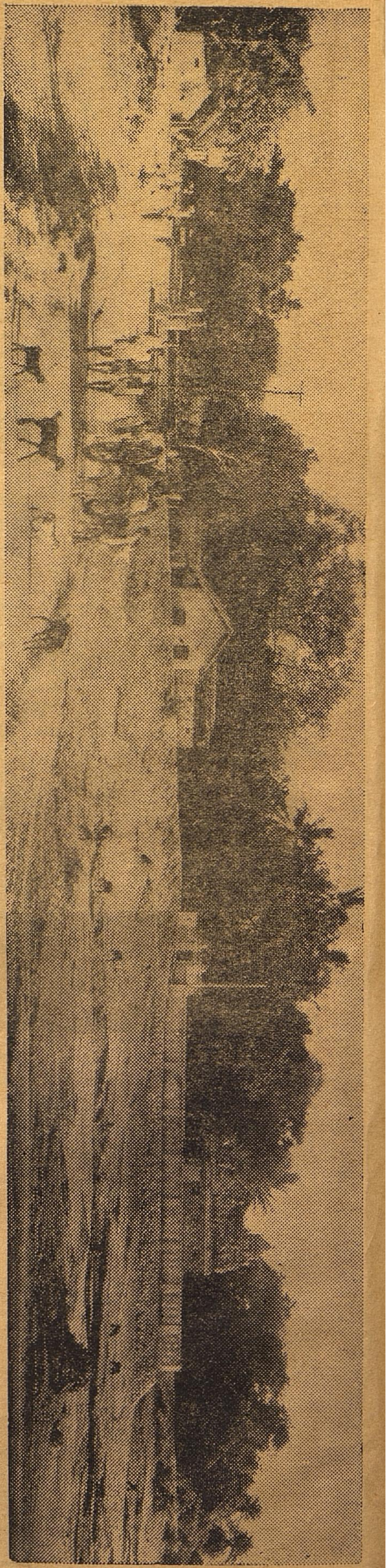
SOMANGALAM GROUP OF VILLAGES START SMILING

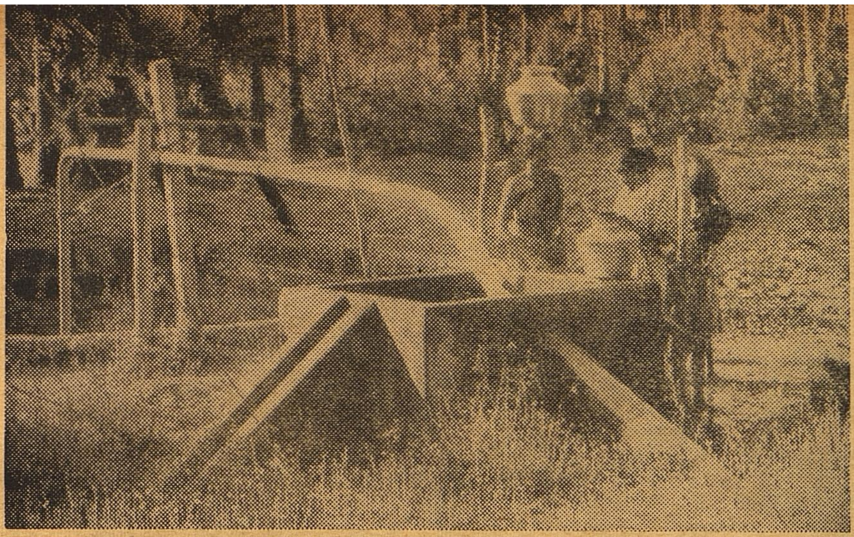
The Rural Reconstruction Project at Somangalam has gathered momentum since launching on 15-2-76. It aims at improving the living standards of villagers making use of the existing facilities and agencies and to transform and enrich the infrastructure for that purpose.

With abundant palmyrah resources in the area, the Palm Gur and Palm Fibre Products Federation has started a scheme to provide employment opportunities to the people of that locality by giving training to a few. Hitherto the fibre from the palm trees were not being processed. After experiments it was found that it is possible to produce export-quality fibre from the palms of the area.

A palmyrah Fibre processing Centre was started recently, in the Harijan colony at Somangalam. The Centre gives training for a period of three months. The employees are paid the cost of the fibre instead of wages. Each person earns about Rs. 5/-. The trainees will soon be provided with a machine to extract the coir, instead of by the present manual method. Soon the Centre will be upgraded and will start producing quality fibre. There is a proposal to start a brush making unit also.

The fibre processing industry will provide more employment oppor tunities and increase, the family income. The Palm Gur and Coir Products Federation will take steps to open more training units with the assistance of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board and the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The Palmy rah is one of the few trees, where every part of the tree could be made use of. A number of simple indigenous products could be manufactured.





LOANS

Short-term loans through land mortgage banks to the extent of Rs. 5,41,042 have been given to the villagers of Somangalam and surrounding villages. This was disclosed to pressmen by Thiru T. K. A. Diwan Mohammed, Collector of Chingleput on 31-3-76.

The Collector stated that two bore wells were sunk in Nallur and Somangalam villages through the co-operative society.

MEDICARE

A dispensary will start functioning from April 1. The head of a family will be issued with a card and the family history will be noted therein. Twelve thousand cards will be issued in Somangalam and nine other villages. House-to-house medical check up will be done from April on wards. 225 Farmers purchased pesticides from the Agro-Service Centre. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been given as advance to the villagers for the purchase of cows etc. A post office will be started soon.

Indian Overseas Bank :—

Thiru D. K. A. Diwan M-Mohmed, I.A.S., Collector Chingleput District, distributed new loans to agriculturists at Kalladipettai on 27-3-'76. About 100 persons were given sums ranging from Rs. 200!- to Rs. 500/-

Under the Rural Reconstruction Project, the three villages 1. Kallatipettai, Nandambakkam and 3 Poonthandalam have been adopted by the Indian Overseas Bank.

The Indian Overseas Bank has had close contact with Kallatipettai from 1973 onwards. The Harijan Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Kallittipettai has received loans from the Indian Overseas Bank. The amount of Rs. 42,000 received as loan has been returned and the Milk Supply Union has received another amount of Rs. 45,000 and the Union is functioning very well.

The Bank has taken up a number of welfare measures and one such measure is to distribute loans for crops. For generations, the tenant cultivators used to receive loans from landlords and Mirasdars for such high rates of interest that they used to suffer untold grievances. The Indian Overseas Bank aware of their difficulties have drawn up a scheme to issue loans to these persons. About 100 harijans who are landless labourers and in the case of those tenant cultivators, tenancy rights are just an under-standing with no explicit documentary proof. These are covered by this scheme. Each get an amount of Rs. 30,000/- A major part of the loan is given as fertilizers and pesticides. Steps are also being taken to provide loans to these Harijan ryots through the Small Farmers' Scheme.

The officials of the agricultural Department and other Departments of the Indian Overseas Bank are ready to give the necessary advice and also explain of how best modern agricultural practices could be put use to.

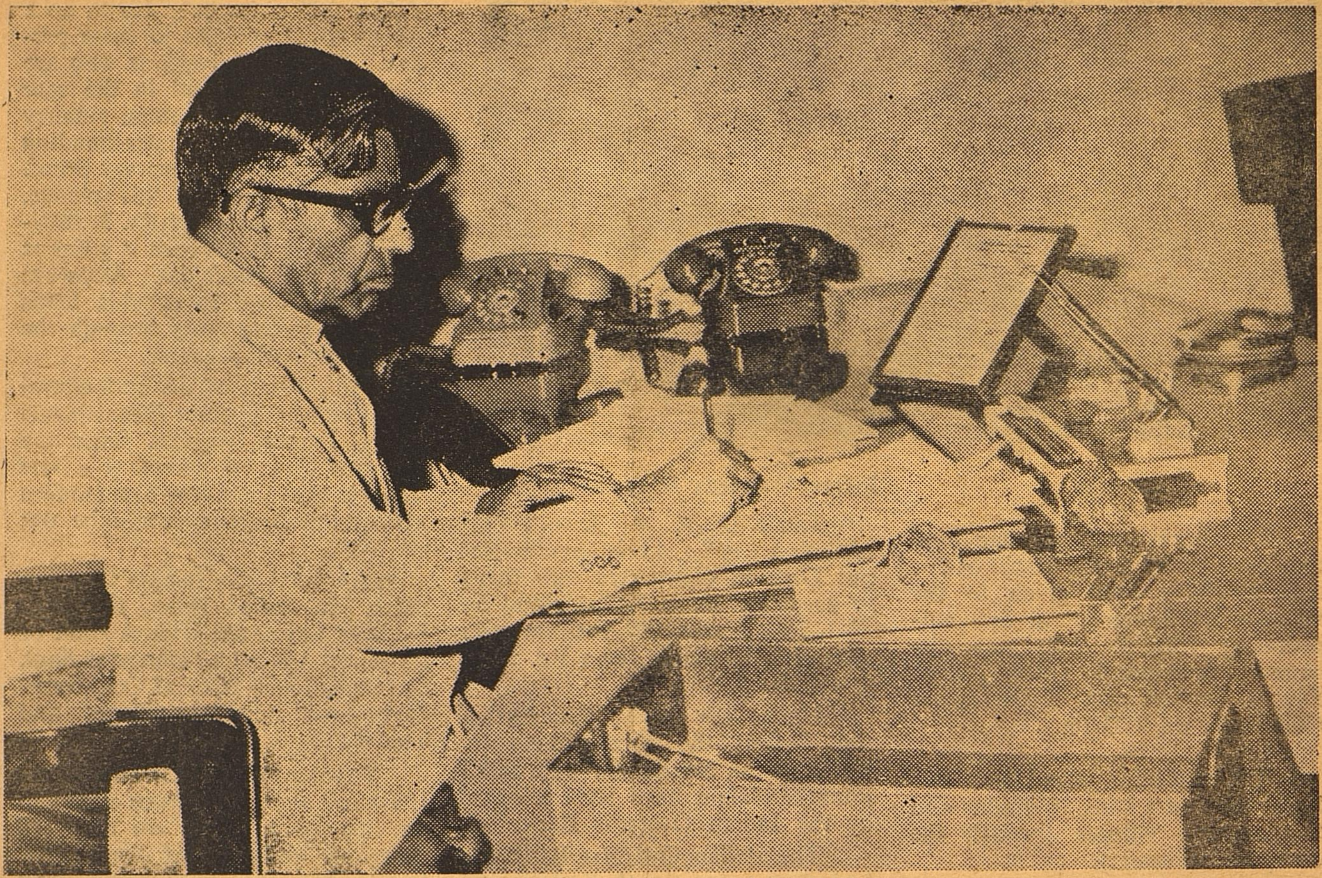
Apart from the Indian Overseas Bank, the Indian Bank, the State Bank of India, the United Bank of India, the United Commercial Bank and the Oriental Bank of Commerce, have each adopted villages and hamlets.

To cater for the 12,200 acre area: 100 more wells have been added to the 211 wells There are now 160 energised wells—50 of them new. Inputs for the swarnawari crop have been made available and the coverage by cooperative societies has gone up from 25 per cent to 75 per cent.

As part of an integrated farm plan, vegetable cultivation has been introduced in the plots of 62 families. Vegetables now sprouting are brinjal, radish, chillies, onion, pumpkin, etc.

DRINKING WATER

The State Water and Drainage Board has sunk five deep bore wells at Nellore, Pudicherry, Poonthandalam, Sirukalathur and Amarambedu, for drinking water.



TAMIL NADU JOINS THE MAIN STREAM OF DEVELOPMENT

UNION FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS TAMIL NADU BUDGET

The following is the Budget speech of Union Finance Minister, Thiru C. Subramaniam presenting the Tamil Nadu Budget for the year 1976-77.

The House is aware of the context in which Presidential rule was imposed in Tamil Nadu on 31st January, 1976. In the short time available since then, we have made an intensive review of the needs of the State and the priorities of development. Although Tamil Nadu had occupied an eminent position in the all India picture in the first, second and third plan periods, there has been a slackening in developmental outlays as well as a deviation from priorities in the last few years. In this context, the primary task is to ensure that there is a significant step up in the Plan outlay for 1976-77 that Tamil Nadu can be helped to rejoin the mainstream of national development. In increasing the plan outlay, we have to ensure that additional emphasis is given to the core sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, power, industry and transport. Adequate provisions will also be necessary for social services. **The increase in plan outlay will have to be based on the availability and mobilisation of genuine resources. These are the main objectives which this budget seeks to promote.**

In earlier discussions with the previous Government, an outlay of Rs. 177 crores had been approved for the State's Plan in 1976-77. In the intensive review which I had referred to earlier we felt that it was both necessary and feasible to increase the outlay to Rs. 201 crores with a more disciplined and careful husbanding of resources. The increase of Rs. 24 crores will be mainly in agriculture and irrigation (Rs. 6.77 crores), power (Rs. 5 crores), industry Rs. 1.05 crores, drinking water supply (Rs. 2.14 crores), slum clearance (Rs. 1.14 crores) and welfare of Harijans and Backward Classes (Rs. 1.44 crores). The plan outlay of Rs. 201 crores will represent a significant increase of 40 per cent over the approved plan outlay of Rs. 143 crores for the current year. Rs. 111 crores in the plan outlay or 56 per cent. will be on schemes connected with the 20-point programme. The power sector will once again be given pride of place in the annual plan with the outlay on power being increased to Rs. 70.18 crores in 1976-77 as against Rs. 41 crores in the current year.

SECTOR - WISE ALLOCATIONS

Core Sectors like Power and Agriculture get lion's share in 1976-77 Budget

With the return of normal seasonal conditions, Tamil Nadu has achieved a good increase in agricultural production. **It is estimated that the production of foodgrains in the current year will be at the level of 80.6 lakh tonnes and the output level is expected to go up to 83 lakhs tonnes in 1976-77.** Fertiliser availability is comfortable. Continued investments will be made for strengthening seed farms and for bringing cultivable waste lands under the plough through the State Farms' Corporation. Allied sectors such as animal husbandry, fisheries and forests are also being given due emphasis in the annual plan outlays.

IRRIGATION

In 1976-77, four irrigation schemes, viz., Marudanadhi, Kodagana, Vattamalaikarai Odai, Palar Porandalur will be completed at a total cost of Rs. 12.64 crores benefitting 17,230 acres of new area and stabilising irrigation in 13,100 acres. There will be substantial progress in modernising Vaigai Channels. The Periyar improvement project has been poised for assistance from the World Bank. The State has almost fully utilised its availability of surface water. Limitations are also beginning to emerge in regard to the exploitation of ground water resources in many areas of Tamil Nadu. The optimal utilisation of the entire water potential of the State has to be studied, planned and implemented as a total system with the emphasis on efficiency and economy in the use of water for irrigation. With this background, the enhanced plan outlay provides for Rs. 4 crores for improvements to the old irrigation systems.

The Irrigation Commission had identified 24 drought-prone core areas in the Districts of Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli Salem, Dharmapuri and Coimbatore. Dry farming research and associated extension and developmental efforts will be accelerated in these areas. All possible efforts will also be taken to formulate and execute irrigation projects which can provide a measure of permanent relief to the drought-prone districts of Tamil Nadu.

With the commissioning of the fifth unit (110 MW) at the Ennore Thermal Plant, the installed capacity in Tamil Nadu has increased to 2364 MW. The Maduvattam diversion scheme which will contribute an additional 69 million units per annum of energy will be completed shortly. The Ennore improvement scheme is being implemented with the assisstance of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. We are taking all steps to ensure that generation is maximised particularly from the thermal plants. With the availability of balancing power from Kerala, it would be possible to avoid a power cut throughout the year given a normal South-West monsoon.

The Annual Plan provides for Rs.34.5 crores for the first phase of the Tuticorin Power Project which is expected to add 420 MW by 1979-80. An advance Central assistance of Rs. 27 crores will be provided for this project in recognition of the high priority we have accorded to power development in Tamil Nadu. In the enhanced plan outlay, Rs. 5 crores have been provided for the Pandiar-Punnampuzha Hydel Project (100 MW).

INDUSTRY

There is a provision of Rs. 4.21 crores in the plan for the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) which is implementing a number of joint sector projects. TIDCO has also taken up the construction of a new cement plant at Ariyalur at a cost of Rs. 16.5 crores. The continuous casting plant at Arkonam is proposed to be diversified with a blooming mill. This will be a feeder unit to the seamless tube project at Tiruchirapalli which has recently been approved as a Central sector investment.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

In the educational sector, there will be continued emphasis on qualitative and quantitative improvement to school, collegiate and technical education. It is proposed to open centres for non-formal education in each of 375 Panchayat unions in the State in 1976-77.

Provisions have been made for health and medical services with a view to increasing the bed strength in District Headquarters' hospitals, upgradation of facilities in Government hospitals, appointment of additional medical officers, nurses and pharmacists, and for the promotion of Indian medicine. An outlay of Rs. 6.3 crores has been made for the family planning programme. The implementation of this programme is under review and propose to give it further impetus.

A new scheme for the medical check up of school children with particular reference to the prevention, early detection and control of leprosy will be launched in the District of Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem where there is a high incidence of this disease.

The benefits of the Employees State Insurance Scheme will be extended to fully cover all registered factories and commercial, hotel and restaurant, shop, cinema theatre and motor transport establishments. This decision will benefit the families of over three lakh employees hitherto not covered under ESI.

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A provision of Rs. 17.45 crores has been made for the welfare of Harijans and Backward Classes. The provision for acquisition of house-sites for Harijans has been enhanced from Rs. 25 lakhs in the current year to Rs. 50 lakhs in 1976-77 since this is an important item in the 20-point programme. **There has so far been no comprehensive approach to improve the living conditions of the tribal population in Tamil Nadu and find solutions to the special problems affecting them. We have decided to set up a tribal development authority with adequate funds and powers to formulate and implement programmes for tribal welfare.**

CITY'S KRISHNA WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GETS TOKEN PROVISION

The slum clearance programme will be implemented with a total provision of Rs. 3.6 crores which include an enhanced provision of Rs. 60 lakh for the phased clearance of slums along with Buckingham Canal in Madras City. In addition, Rs. 25 lakhs have been provided for environmental improvements to slum areas.

A total provision of Rs. 30.21 crores has been made for the construction and maintenance of road works. Eight bridges under the Central Road Fund Programme are expected to be completed in 1976-77. With assistance from the Centre, a substantial programme has been initiated for the improvement of roads and bridges in and around Madras City and for the provision of subways at important pedestrian crossing.

Honourable members are aware that Madras City underwent an acute scarcity of water supply last summer in the wake of the severe drought that affected the State. Unfortunately, the Veeranam Water Suppply Project which was initiated more than seven years ago has encountered serious difficulties. The technical aspects of this project are being reviewed. Based on this review, we shall take appropriate steps to ensure that early relief is provided to Madras City in the matter of watersupply. A major **new development has been the Prime Minister's recent announcement at Madras of the willingness of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka to spare 15 TMC of water from the Krishna River for the water supply requirements of Madras City. In the enhanced plan outlay we have provided Rs. one crore for the preliminary investigations in connection with this project.**

SOME CONCESSIONS IN NEW TAX PROPOSALS

Replying to the debate on the Budget, Shri C. Subramaniam announced some concessions in his new Tax proposal which he claimed "Substanial" considering the difficult financial situation in Tamil Nadu and the imperative need to find resources for financing the increased plan outlay of more than Rs. 200 crores.

The concessions include a reduction in the motor vehicles tax on mofussil services- from the proposed Rs. 225 to 215 per seat per quarter - and in the cess on commercial crops for grapes, sugarcane, plantation, coconut, betel and turmeric - from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20 per acre.

The commercial crop cess on tobacco, chillies, irrigated cotton and irrigated groundnut will be cut from Rs. 12 to Rs. 12.50 per acre.

After the Finance Minister's reply, the House passed the Budget.

DETAILS OF NEW TAX PROPOSALS

We are faced with the imperative need for increasing developmental outlays on the one hand and an eroded resource base in Tamil Nadu on the other. We are taking all steps to ensure that avoidable and unnecessary non-plan expenditure is curtailed. President's Rule has brought about a sense of discipline in fiscal administration and we can expect a better collection of taxes and other dues to Government. Economy and improved receipts are therefore both possible but despite these efforts, a certain measure of additional mobilisation has become inevitable.

Against this background, the following measures are proposed to be undertaken :—

(i) The previous Government had notified an upward revision of bus fare in Tamil Nadu. Following this revision, it is proposed to siphon off a part of the additional revenues of bus fleet operators by enhancing the motor vehicles tax from Rs. 180 to Rs. 225 per seat per quarter for mofussil services and from Rs. 200 to 240 per seat per quarter for express services.

(ii) The additional sales tax structure in Tamil Nadu needs revision in order to prevent avoidance and anomalies. The limit beyond which additional sales tax is payable which is at present Rs.10 lakhs of taxable turnover per annum is also high compared with other States such as Madhya Pradesh where the corresponding limit is Rs. 50,000. It is, therefore, proposed to levy additional sales tax calculated at 0.4 per cent of the taxable turnover in the slab of Rs. 3 to 5 lakhs of taxable turnover per annum with the rate of tax being 0.5 per cent for the slab of Rs. 5 to 7 lakhs, 0.6 per cent for the slab of Rs. 7 to 10 lakhs and 0.7 per cent for Rs. 10 lakhs and above. The additional sales tax shall not be passed on the consumer.

(iii) Irrigation rates have not been revised in Tamil Nadu since 1963. Irrigation projects in the State are making an overall loss of about Rs. 10 crores. It is proposed to cover a part of this loss through two measures. Firstly an additional water cess of Rs. 12 per acre on lands using water from I class sources and of Rs. 10 per acre in the case of II class sources is proposed to be levied. Under these sources there is dependable irrigation for not less than eight to twelve months in a year. There will be no increase for farmers who draw water from poorer sources of irrigation such as rainfed tanks in Classes III, IV and V. Secondly, it is proposed to introduce a special assessment in respect of commercial crops following the pattern adopted in neighbouring States such as Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The special assessment will be at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre for grapes, sugarcane, plaintain, coconut, betel and turmeric and Rs. 15 per acre for tobacco, chillies, irrigated cotton and irrigated groundnut. I might point out that this levy will constitute a very small proportion of the net income of farmers who grow remunerative cash crops.

Honourable members will agree that none of these measures will affect the poorer section of society or the ordinary consumer. **In Tamil Nadu the present tax structure is such that any further impetus to development can be given only if the tax burden is more equitably shared between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.** In devising these additional mobilisation measures, we have also kept in view the need to upgrade the resource base of the State so that the increased tempo of development which is reflected in this budget could be sustained in future years. I would like the House to consider the proposals I have made against this background.

As part of the 20-Point Programme it is proposed to exempt note books and pencils from the present multipoint sales tax of four per cent. In order to prevent diversion of trade and to review distressed units it is proposed to give certain other concessions. The sales tax on cotton yarn sold outside the State will be reduced from 3 to 2 per cent. The sales tax on dry cells will be reduced from 15 per cent to 9 per cent. The sales tax on passenger cars will be reduced from 15 per cent to 12 per cent with exemption from Central sales tax for passenger cars and light diesel vehicles exported from the State.

The revision in the motor vehicles tax and additional sales tax will come into force with effect from 1st April 1976. The additional water cess and the special assessment on commercial crops will take effect from the next revenue year which in Tamil Nadu begins on 1st July 1976. The concessions will come into force with immediate effect.

The total yield from the additional tax measures has been estimated at Rs. 10.5 crores. The effect of the concessions will be a loss in revenue of Rs. 1.5 crores. The net effect of these proposals will, therefore, be Rs. 9 crores in a full year reducing the revenue deficit to Rs. 3.32 crores and the overall deficit to Rs. 0.98 crores. This marginal deficit will get fully covered through economies and better collection of taxes.

PERSONAL SATISFACTION

It is a matter of personal satisfaction to me that the State's Plan is crossing the Rs. 200 crore mark when I am presenting the Tamil Nadu Budget after an interval of 10 years. I have every confidence that Tamil Nadu which has lagged behind can once again be brought forward to the forefront in achieving the national objectives of the 20-Point Programme. If I may say so, with a pardonable sense of pride the intelligent and hard working people of Tamil Nadu are her greatest asset. **With the confluence of Tamil Nadu in the mainstream of national life, I have every confidence that they will rededicate themselves to the urgent and challenging tasks of economic development and social progress.**

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1976-77.

The Budget Estimates, 1976-77 show a Revenue Deficit of Rs. 12.32 crores on the basis of the existing level of taxation as follows :—

	(*Rupees in crores*)
Revenue Receipts	5,75.63
Revenue Expenditure	5,87.95
Revenue Deficit	12.32

Revenue Receipts :

Total Revenue Receipts during 1976-77 are estimated at Rs. 5,75.63 crores. They include Rs. 123.40 crores on account of State's share of Central Taxes, namely Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (Rs. 51.51 crores), Estate Duty (Rs 0.62 crore) and State's share of Union Excise and Additional Excise Duties (Rs 71.27 crores). The total receipts from the State Taxes are estimated at Rs 3,45.58 crores. The Major Tax receipts under State Taxes are Sales Tax (Rs. 2,38.33 crores), Taxes on Vehicles (Rs 46.00 crores), Stamps and Registration Fees (Rs 25.36 crores), and other Taxes and Duties on Commodities and Services (Rs 21.31 crores). The Non-tax receipts are estimated at Rs 73.40 crores. They include an amount of Rs 16.50 crores on account of Interest Receipts, Rs 13.81 crores under Agriculture and Rs 6.34 crores from Forest. The receipts by way of Grants-in-aid from the Central Government are estimated at Rs 34.25 crores.

Revenue Expenditure :

The Budget Estimates of Revenue Expenditure include provisions of Rs 1,99.70 crores on General Services, Rs 2,27.60 crores on Social and Community Services, Rs 1,42.28 crores on Economic Services and Rs 18.37 crores on Grantsin-aid and Contributions.

Capital Receipts :

The Capital Receipts during 1976-77 are estimated at Rs 25.25 crores (Net) which mainly includes the Open Market Borrowing of Rs 14.35 crores by State Government and Rs 20.89 crores by way of recoveries of Loans and Advances granted by State Government.

Capital Expenditure :

The total Capital Expenditure outside the Revenue Account during 1976-77 is estimated at Rs 60.40 crores. It includes Rs 2.55 crores on Capital Account of General Services, Rs 7.42 crores on Capital Account of Social and Community Services, Rs 50.43 crores on Capital Account of Economic Services. The Capital Account of General Services includes Rs 2.49 crores on Capital Outlay on Public Works. The Capital Account of Social and Community Services includes an amount of Rs 2.72 crores on Capital Outlay on Medical. The provisions of Rs 5.45 crores on Capital Outlay on Roads and Bridges Rs. 25.96 crores on Capital Outlay on Irrigation, Navigation, Drainage and Food Control Projects Rs 4.27 crores on Capital Outlay on Industrial Research and Development and Rs 2.88 crores on Capital Outlay on Agriculture, are the significant items under the Capital Account of Economic Services.

Public Debt :

The Expenditure on Public Debt amounts to Rs 2,28.85 crores. This includes Rs 1,82.45 crores on Internal Debt and Rs 46.40 crores on repayment of Loans and Advances from the Central Government.

Loans and Advances by the State Government :

The provisions relating to grant of loans and advances by the State Government amount to Rs 53.62 crores. This includes Rs 9.40 crores for Public Health, Sanitation and Water-supply, Rs 4.15 crores for Social Security and Welfare, Rs 2.91 crores for Housing, Rs. 1.52 crores to Co-operative Societies and Rs 20.68 crores for Power Projects.

State Plan, 1976-77.

The State Plan Outlay in 1976-77 is Rs 2,01.00 crores. The assistance from the Central Govt. towards financing the State Plan for 1976-77 has been assumed at Rs. 72.26 crores.

THE EVIL DAYS OF D M K RULE IN TAMIL NADU

UNION FINANCE MINISTER CITES THE "CLASSIC" EXAMPLES GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER

During his reply to the Debate on the Tamil Nadu Budget in Lok Sabha, Thiru Subramaniam explained in detail the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu when the DMK Government was dismissed from office and outlined the steps being taken to cleanse the administration and bring about improvements in all spheres.

The Finance Minister emphasised that the whole system in the State was in complete disarray when the administration was taken over by the President. It would take a long time to remove the cobwebs in the administration. Not only as the Finance Minister but as a person belonging to that State, he would try to do his best so that the State could regain its pre-eminent position among the States.

Tamil Nadu's reputation for administrative efficiency had been spoiled by the DMK, averred the Finance Minister and added that several academic and development organisations had also been shattered.

The Prime Minister gave several "classic" examples to show how the State had fallen on "evil days" during the nine-year rule of DMK. As the Finance Minister of the State for nearly 10 years, he remembered that in the first three plans one-third of the total Plan outlay was allotted for power generation and the State had been surplus in power. But since the DMK assumed office, the State was plagued by chronic power shortage, though the situation could have been managed with smaller cuts. The advice given by the experts, were ignored and even the power shortage was used for party ends.

It had been estimated that nearly 24,000 out of the one lakh employees in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Boards were surplus, declared Thiru Subramaniam and added that as soon as the Advisers took over the administration they went into the affairs of the State Electricity Board and found the staff to be surplus.

This showed that the Board had been used for the purpose of providing jobs for DMK men. More shocking than this was that that there were eight Chairmen of the Board in nine years. How could there be any worthwhile administration without a Chairman continuing for a reasonable period, he asked.

As regards irrigation, the Finance Minister said the water resources of the State had almost been exploited fully and efforts would have to be made for getting water from adjoining States. Modernisation of the irrigation systems in the Cauvery delta was one of the schemes pending for a long time. This scheme was tied with the Cauvery water dispute with Karnataka and Kerala. Unless the dispute was settled nothing could be done. He hoped some settlement on this question would materialise soon.

ELECTRICITY BOARD PRESS RELEASE ON OVER - STAFFING

The Board considers the present workload of the staff of the billing and revenue accounting of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board require revision. With a view to have the workload reassessed on scientific lines after field study, a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Officer on Special Duty/Finance & Accounts of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board with three other members well versed with the work has been set up. The committee has been requested to make its recommendations expeditiously.

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The coming Tamil new year day " vishu " on April 14 will be a date with a difference for the bonded primitive panias of the Gudalur taluk in the Nilgiris district. It will be the day when they will break their 500-year old shackles and breathe the air of freedom.

The prevalance of the pernicious practice of bonded labour in Tamil Nadu had come to light recently and the new Administration of the State lost no time to put an end to this evil custom, thereby implementing one of the most important of the 20-point programme.

Bonded for generations

A peculiar system of landlordism prevails in the Gudulur area. The original owners, Jenmis of Nilambur Koilagam have no longer any control after the enactment of the Jenmi Abolition Act in 1969. The Wyanaad Chetties who are tenants of Jenmis have now become tenant-proprietors. The Chetties believed to have migrated to the area in the 16th centuary had brought farm labourers called panians with them. The panias are bonded to their masters for generations. With the efflux of time, the domination of the Chetties has waned and the servile panias had also begun to choose their employers and jobs of their liking. According to the latest official count taken during the first week of March 76, there are 481 panias left bonded to the Chetties in 10 villages. Half of them are women. 99 families are totally bonded, 152 familes have one or two members under shackles. The rest among the 5667 panias in the Taluk are free as any other aborginals of the area. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced her 20-point programme on July 1, seeking among other things to put an end to the bonded labour system. The union Government followed it up with an Ordinance on October 24. The then DMK government did not bother about it claiming there was no bonded labour in the State. Later in November the Union Labour Ministry drew the attention of the then State government to the 21st report of the Commissioner of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the practice of bonded labour system among Pania tribes in Gudalur Taluk and wanted immediate action to be taken to end this practice.

THE PANIAS OF GUDALUR HAVE BEEN FREED FROM BONDAGE

The first official admission of prevalence of bonded labour in the State was made in the report of the District Collector on January 27 " that the bonded labour system is prevalent in a subtle form among Panias."

System of Wages

The Collector had stated that the Chetties of Gudalur Taluk who are the main land-owning class engaged one, two or more Pania families to work in their fields more or less on permanent basis. In such cases, the practice is that, the Chetties make an advance payment which is usually Rs 10 for a male and Rs 5 for a female among with a pair of Dhoties and ten seers of paddy each on the Malayalam New Year Day (VISHU). There is an unwritten agreement between the Chetty who make the payment and Pania who receives it that the latter will work in the former's farm for a period of one year. Normally, the Pania, his wife and their grown up children work for the master. For the work they do, they are paid in kind. An adult male gets two seers (two kgs) of paddy while a female pania one and a half seers, in addition they are fed in the morning and noon.

On festival occasions like Onam and Sankranthi these panias are given oil and other provisions like chillies dhal etc. The same formalities are repeated year after year and so much so the panias attached to a particular land-lord have to work for their masters and receive the given wages (in kind only) and have no liberty to work for others for better wages unless, their masters have no work on a particular day.

Freedom is Pawned

The collector had pointed out that " this system had the essential features of bonded labour as the labourer is denied fair wages and is under an obligation to work for his master without the liberty to work anywhere he likes for wages at market rate." The advance payment of cash and paddy on the New Year Day are not necessarily treated as debt or loan to be adjusted or recovered later. If the Pania works for a year his obligation ceases. But, if he wants to break away he is liable to return the money and paddy so received.

Enquiries in the villages show the conditions of the free panias is far better. They get Rs 6 per day

T.A.—3

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working under Chetans, the new landowners of the Taluk. Panias working in Forests get as much as Rs. 15 per day for getting Bamboos.

After examining the Collectors' report, the State Government issued an order on February 25, stressing the " imperative and urgent need " to provide the Panias with gainful employment under various labour intensive schemes in the Nilgiris District.

In this connection the order mentioned schemes now under execution such as the Hill area Development Programme, the Western Ghat Development programme. The Government directed that the Panias who are freed from the bondage should be preferentially employed in the above schemes and also other works departmentally executed. Where such works are executed through contractors an obligation can be created on the contractors to employ the Panias preferentially.

The first meeting of the district officers held at Ootacamund under the chairmanship of the Collector on March 8, discussed concrete plans to liberate and rehabilitate the bonded Panias. The Collector mentioned that besides the schemes mentioned in the Government Order. the Panias could also be employed in the Tea gardens, the Indo-German Nilgiris project and forest department. He expected 2,000 acres in Gudalur taluk would be available for assignment for Panias when the Jenmu Abolition Act is enforced. The meeting also decided to approach the small farmers development agency for necessary help and assistance.

Indo-German Nilgiri's Project

The Indo-German Nilgiris Project offered to take Panias under the three schemes namely establishment of vegetable seed production centre, development of paddy, tapioca and spice and construction of checkdams-cum-diversion canals.

The Assistant Engineer Public Works Development came forward to employ 50 Panias under various schemes under execution in Gudalur taluk. According to official figures Moonanad village tops the list of bonded panias with 139 followed by Erumad with 103. Sreemadurai has 25, Cherumulli 28, Cherangode 50, Pondanthurai 50, Nelakotta 12, Gudalur 50, Nelliyalayam 12, Devala 3,

A group of newsmen who recently toured the Pania settlements in Gudalur taluk found them to be the most backward among the aborgials of the district steeped in ignorance, afflicted by disease and poverty They are not aware of the Government's efforts for their economic emancipation.

Panias are a psychological and sociological case. They need a lot of understanding and sympathy, according to Dr. S. Narasimhan secretary of the Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association.

Shri K. Inbasakaran who assumed office as the collector of the Nilgiris District in the second week of March has taken up the Pania welfare as his first task. He agrees with Dr. Narasimhan that this problem has to be handled delicately. He has also shown a keen interest in the cooperative farm run by the association for Panias in Erumad. The collector said that the Erumad experiment could be tried on a larger scale after the resumption of the Jenmam land.

The Tamil Nadu government has donated 83 acres of scrub jungle, erected 25 dwellings on a subsidy-cum-loan basis and gave a grant for one year towards the cost of a nutritious daily meal for the pania colonists. Doubts were expressed about whether the plan would succeed, but it is heartening to find after Ten years only three of the original families have moved away. The ones that remain now, own cooking utensils and other simple possessions. Some of them had built their own huts on the two-acre plots allocated to each of the families.

Besides working on their own plots, the Panias are also working in the community owned land for which they are paid daily wages. Besides the farming the Panias have learnt to extract the lemon grass oil in a simple sill belonging to the farm. Some of them have post office savings accounts.

The Erumad colony will be a pace setter for the emacipation of the most backward among the tribals of the Nilgiris and ones who are groaning under the stranglehold of slave drivers. Thanks to the new awareness created by the 20-point programme, the long neglected Panias can now see the next decade as an era of freedom, confidence hope and a better life . The future opens a new vista for the bonded Panias. As Kunjan of Ezhumuram was heard whistling a popular song " Naalai Namathe " " tomorrow is ours. " can literally come true, for we are all working for their tomorrow " —K. V. Narayanan.

Their day has dawned ! Legislatian has broken their shackles. Women forlk simply dance and rejoice over their freedom.

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SUKAVANESHVAR. I.A.S.,
MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Agriculture May be a State Subject — But Central Assistance Plays Major Role

Agriculture in Tamilnadu has always held the pride of place in perspective planning and performance ever since the First Five Year Plan. The total foodgrains production which was a bare 36 lakh tonnes in 1951—52 leapt to 73 lakh tonnes by the end of the IV Plan. A target of 90 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been set by the end of the V Plan. Other important commercial crops like sugarcane, oilseeds and cotton have also received their due share of attention with the result that their production has also spiralled quite strikingly.

While the responsibility of stepping up of agricultural production primarily remains with the State, the Central assistance towards this goal has been substantial. The total net plan outlay for development of agricultural production in the State for 1975—76 is Rs. 4.5 crores out of which Central assistance comes to Rs. 75 lakhs. This assistance is spread over more than a dozen salient schemes covering agricultural marketing.

Under agricultural education there are seven Farmers' Training Centres in Tamil Nadu located at Coimbatore, Ranipet, Aduthurai, Koilpatti, Tindivanam, Madurai and Lalgudi. Besides these, there are two centres at Coimbatore and Madurai which are, now, functioning under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The main strategy of agricultural production is to increase the yield per acre and also the number of crops in a year. The success of the strategy depends, to a great extent, on our ability to involve a large number of farmers, big and small, in our intensive agricultural programme and to impart to them the knowledge and skill necessary for a planned and concentrated use of sophisticated inputs so as to maximise output. The farmer, the farm woman and the farm youth have all been involved in these programmes. It is imperative that the farmers are continuously provided with technical know-how relating to seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, implements and water use to enable them to keep pace with changing technology. The programme for farmers training is based both on field and home demonstrations with the use of audiovisual aids. These are supported by radio broadcasts and farmers' discussion groups. Special institutional training for the progressive farmers and farm women is also arranged for in each training centre. Besides this, perpatetic training cum demonstrations are conducted in select holdings. Mass publicity through leaflets, news-bulletins and village celebrations is also undertaken under this scheme. A provision of more than a lakh of rupees is made every year for each Centre by the Government of India for this purpose.

The next scheme is for the promotion of export-oriented crops like oilseeds. The object of this scheme is to increase the production of oilseeds in potential areas of South Arcot and North Arcot districts, through a new strategy by ensuring adequate supply of seeds, including distribution of departmental seeds, making available inputs in time to every farmer, organising plant protection campaigns, laying out problem-oriented demonstrations providing technical know-how, popularising suitable cropping patterns and undertaking diagnostic work. Subsidy for the demonstrations at the rate of Rs. 125/- per plot and subsidy for the sale of plant protection chemicals for the oilseed crops are some of the important incentives offered under this scheme.

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR COTTON

Cotton, being an important commercial crop, also draws considerable Central assistance through two Centrally sponsored schemes under the package scheme and the Intensive Cotton Development Scheme. The former scheme envisages large scale production of nucleus and foundation seeds of improved varieties of cotton, meet the growing need for the supply of pure and quality seeds and a coverage of more than 75% of the total area with Departmental seeds. This

PRIME MINISTER'S 20 POINT ECONOMIC PROGRAMME ASSURES

FAIR PRICE AND FAIR WAGES FOR AGRICULTURISTS

scheme is in operation at Koilpatti and Aduthurai, covering an extent of 15 hectares.

The Intensive Cotton Development Scheme is in operation in Coimbatore and Tirunelveli districts covering an area of 3.75 lakh acres. The programme aims at achieving a break-through in the per-acre production of cotton. Due stress is laid on varietal change and the adoption of new agro-techniques. Subsidy is given for the purchase of power sprayers, either by individual farmers or co-operatives and for conducting result-oriented demonstrations. A total annual provision of Rs. 32 lakhs is made by the Government of India for these two schemes on cotton in this State.

Coconut rearing is yet another field where assistance from the Centre has played a crucial role. The Tall X Dwarf coconuts are a boon to the Coconut cultivators, what with their early maturity and short stature. 25,000 seedlings are being produced annually by way of hybridisation through artificial pollination, collection of seednuts and raising of seedlings. There is an ever growing demand for this variety in this State.

The edible oil requirements of the State have also received due attention what with the newly introduced sunflower crop. We have a scheme to increase the area under sunflower from a base level of 1.00 lakh hectares to 2.40 lakh hectares at the end of the V Plan, with the objective of producing 1.62 lakh tonnes of oil. Extension of area, supply of seeds, laying demonstrations to popularise the package of practices are some conspicuous components of this scheme.

Banana is, yet, another crop with a good export potential. Robusta and Cavenish are two varieties that are recommended for extension and export. A coverage of over 2,000 hectares is contemplated for this year. The Government of India providing for an assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakhs including a subsidy of Rs. 85,000/-.

Tamil Nadu is deficit in the production of Pulses. So, it is no wonder that our State has taken up measures to increase the production of these protein based crops, with substantial Central assistance. For the present year, 2,500 acres of block demonstrations are being laid out, with a subsidy of Rs. 100/- per acre, to popularise the package of practices for all pulse crops. Breeders' and foundation seeds will be produced in over 2,500 acre Seed Farms. In addition to this, a subsidy of Re. 1/- is given for every kilogram upto a distribution limit of 200 tonnes. Plant protection chemicals are also supplied at 25% subsidised rates to cover 85,000 acres. Provision is also made for production of bacteria in the micro-biological laboratories with a view to inoculating the pulse seeds before sowing.

Cashew is another important crop with a great export potential. At the instance of the Government of India, three schemes are being implemented for the development of cashew through improvement of vegetative propagation, and running " progeny orchards ". Demonstration plots are also laid out to indicate the importance of manuring and plant protection. These improved agronomic practices and plant protection measures are designed to step up the per-tree yield.

Three " progeny orchards " covering 40 acres each, are being started in Chingleput, Pudukottai

Maize Crop in Coimbatore District. It has good demand round the year in Tamil Nadu.

Banana fruit has got good export potential and earns lots of foreign exchange

Cholam is a short term Crop and fetches the grower enormous profit.

and Ramanathapuram districts to develop parent trees of good pedigree with high yielding potential for further multiplication.

Cloves, Nutmeg and Pepper are some of the important spices which are under cultivation, mainly, in the Western Ghats. Improvement of these spice crops also attracts Central assistance. Two new Central nurseries, one at Gudalur in the Nilgiris and the other at Pechiparai in Kanyakumari districts, have been started to produce hybrid Panniyur.

In addition to the existing 15 nursery plots, another 25 plots are being arranged to supply peppervine cuttings in different districts.

ASSISTANCE FOR MARKETING

Marketing has also received Central assistance. Three kapas-grading centres are functioning in the State : Pollachi, Perundurai and Pudur regulated markets, working as Centrally sponsored schemes. The object of this scheme is to grade kapas in a scientific manner so as to enable the growers to know the quality of their produce and get a better price. 7,000 quintals of kapas are annually, graded in these centres.

The Integrated Dryland Agricultural Development project is a Central sector scheme in operation in Pudukkottai and Tirunelveli districts. The main object of this scheme is to help the dryland cultivators of these areas to adopt improved agricultural practices and adequate plant protection measures. Subsidiary occupations like rearing milch cattle, sheep and poultry to increase the income of these farmers are also envisaged under this scheme.

Land development, contour bunding, desilting and deepening of minor irrigation tanks, and formation of percolation tanks on community basis are some of the permanent works being undertaken in these areas to conserve the available water and utilise it to ensure the maximum crop outturn.

Digging of new wells, deepening of existing wells, construction of irrigation channels and installation of electric motor pump sets and diesel engines on a 75% loan and 25% subsidy basis are some of the minor irrigation measures under this scheme.

Farm implements and plant protection appliances also get supplied to the farmers at subsidised rates.

SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS' SCHEMES

One of the most important projects started by the Government of India in Tamil Nadu in the IV Five Year Plan is the vital project for the benefit of small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in select blocks. The Small Farmers Development Agency was, first, introduced in three districts, South Arcot, Madurai and Tirunelveli and the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Agency in Salem and North Arcot districts in 1970—71. During the Vth Five Year Plan, the Small Farmers' Development Agency has been extended to 7 more districts in this State. Grants-in-aid are provided by the Central Government. Each Small Farmers Development Agency is to benefit 50,000 small farmers and marginal farmers and each Marginal Farmers' and Agricultural Labourers Agency is to benefit 20,000 small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, subsidy is given at the rate of 25% to the small farmers and at the rate of 33.3% to the marginal farmers. Credit facilities are being arranged through co-operative institutions to enable the weaker sections of the farming community to undertake better cropping practices, to effect permanent improvement through well digging, deepening and energising of wells and augment their income by engaging themselves in income yielding subsidiary occupations like dairy farming, poultry farming, and sheep rearing. A provision of Rs. 150 lakhs is earmarked for each of these projects for a five-year period.

By

Shri. R. NATARAJAN,

SPECIAL SECRETARY,

Government of Tamil Nadu.

Courtesy : A.I.R., MADRAS.

LARGE SCALE CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO TAMIL NADU HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES

PM's 20 Point Programme Protects the interests of the Weavers

Not long ago, the handloom industry in Tamil Nadu was thrown into an unenviable position. The industry providing a living to a large number of people was in a deplorable state of neglect. This meant untold suffering not only to the weavers and their families but to millions of others whose sole sustenance has been this ancient craft.

Fortunately, for the handloom weavers the Prime Minister's 20-Point Economic Programme envisaged development of the handloom sector also. As a result of the new impetus for development, the handloom industry of Tamil Nadu has been looking up.

Many a time in the past, the Central Government extended timely help to salvage the industry from a multitude of difficulties that had beset it. It is essential to have a fair idea about the size and role of the handloom industry in Tamil Nadu in order to understand the extent and value of Central help.

Stands second to agriculture

Handloom weaving the sole source of income for lakhs of people in Tamil Nadu is second only to agriculture in this respect. It provides livelihood to about 7.5 lakh people. One fifth of the country's handlooms are in the State accounting for one fourth of the total production of handloom cloth in the country. The handloom industry in Tamil Nadu supplies about 50 per cent of the State's requirements of cloth and contributes two-thirds of the handloom cloth exported from India.

In 1961, Tamil Nadu had the largest number of handloom weavers in the country. There were 4.66 lakh handloom weavers constituting 21.8 per cent of the total number of weavers in the country. Handloom weaving was the mainstay for 22.7 per cent of the labour force employed in all types of manufacturing activities in the State. At present, there are about 5,50,000 handlooms in Tamil Nadu accounting for more than 15 per cent of the handlooms for the whole country.

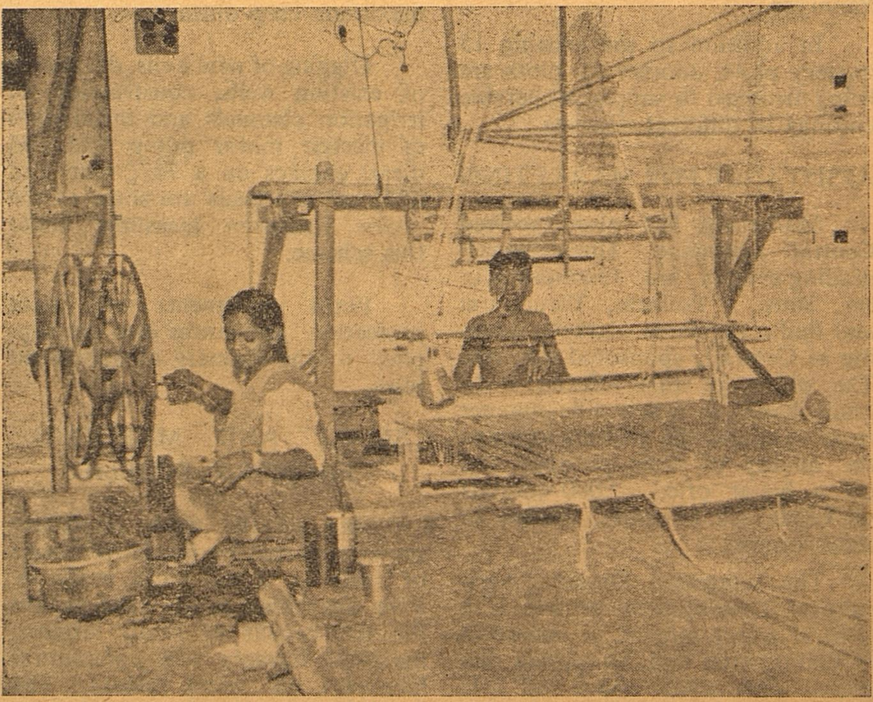
Timely steps to save the industry

During the past decade this industry was languishing in the face of stiff competition from the textile mills, powerlooms, non-availability of finance, shortage of raw materials and shrinking home and export markets. The industry was able to survive the heavy odds only due to the timely steps taken by the Central Government to avert the crisis. But for this help, the crisis would have plunged lakhs of people into grief by throwing them out of employment.

The basic raw material for the handloom industry is yarn. The shortage of yarn had hit thousands of weaving families. To add fuel to the fire, the price of yarn was beyond the reach of the weavers. The private spinning mills exploited the situation to their advantage. The mounting discontent bred by these factors compelled the handloom weavers in the State to launch an agitation. At this moment, the Central Government stepped in to alleviate the sufferings of the weavers. In March 1973, new controls were introduced to regulate the production, price and distribution of yarn. Later, the Centre relaxed the control in view of improved yarn production and after an assurance by mills in the private sector that they would observe discipline in regard to price and distribution. The partial decontrol was upto 60 counts in the first instance and upto 80 counts thereafter.

N. T. C. Supplying yarn at Cheap price

The spinning units are now being given licences with an obligation of producing 65 per cent yarn in banks. The existing mills have also been asked to increase their production of yarn in hank form by 10 per cent as compared to the



Handloom industry provides large scale employment opportunities to our ruralfolk

production in 1972. This will ensure adequate availability of yarn to the handloom sector. The 13 textile mills under the National Textile Corporation in Tamil Nadu are also supplying cheap yarn to the weavers.

The discriminative attitude of consumers in favour of synthetic fibres and the availability of cheap mill-made cloth have put the handloom goods at a disadvantage. The industry had accumulated large amount of stocks. To save the industry from this predicament, the Central Government came to the rescue of the State by giving financial assistance. Tamil Nadu gets Rs.1.8 crores as loan from the Centre to help clear the accumulated stocks. The State got as much 36 per cent of the loan of Rs. 5 crores for the whole country.

Special rebate schemes

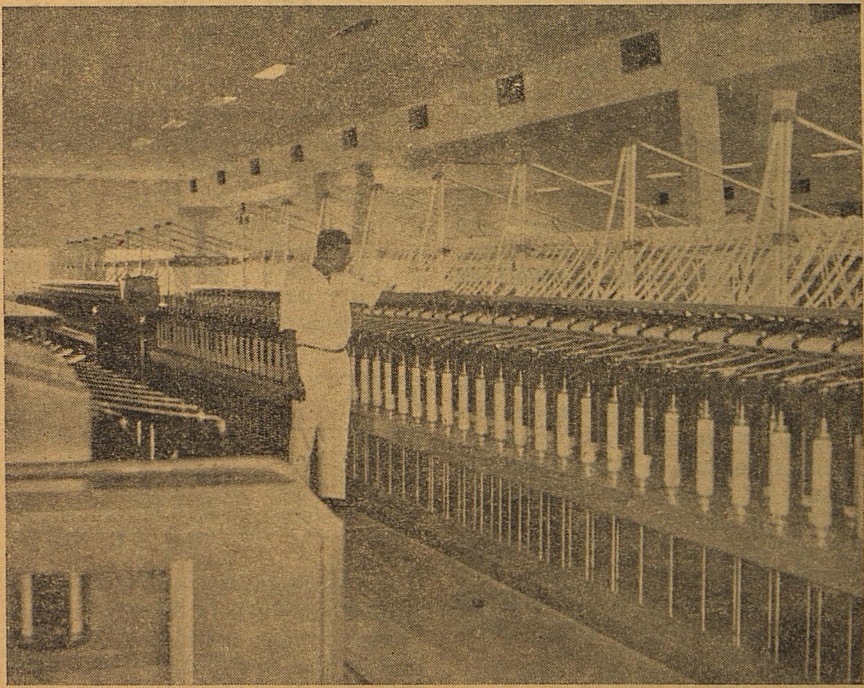
A special scheme of rebate has been introduced sinceDecember,1975 to speed up the clearance of the accumulated handloom stocks. A rebate of 20 per cent on retail sales of handloom cloth in Tamil Nadu during December, 1975 and January, 1976 was allowed. Subsequently, the period was extended up to the end of February, 1976. The Centre meets 50 per cent of the expenditure on the rebate. According to information available, the Centre's scheme has enabled the State to make much headway in clearing the accumulated stocks. The indications are that the entire accumulated stocks would be cleared.

The Government also granted a loan of Rs. 30 lakhs to the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Bombay for the purchase and marketing of accumulated handloom stocks.

Reservation of Varieties :

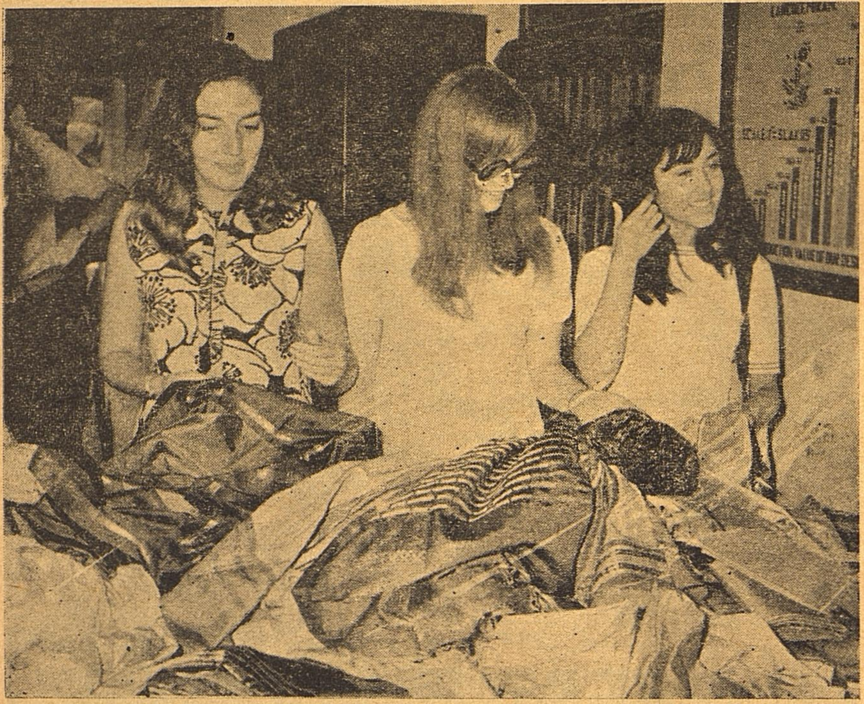
As a measure to protect the industry from encroachment by the powerloom and mill sector, the Centre has reserved certain categories of cloth exclusively for the handloom sector. The items are piece-dyed dhoties, lungies, Sarongs and piece dyed or yarn dyed coloured cotton sarees. Later, with a view to giving a new deal to the handloom weavers, the Government added five more categories of cloth in the list of reserved items for the handloom sector. These are yarn dyed dhoties, low reed pick cloth, all coloured sarees, dusters and towels in honey comb weave or Erazha Thortu.

Whether it is wedding or any other auspicious occasion handloom contains all sorts of varieties that suits Consumer's taste.



Many spinning mills in Tamil Nadu have "adopted" Colonies of weavers for regular supply of yarn.

HANDLOOMS MAY BE ANCIENT BUT ITS PRODUCT ARE ALWAYS MODERN



Silk Clothes from handlooms are export oriented. Silk sarees, scarves and silk ties have already Captured foreign markets. This is mainly because it suits all weather and give Comforts to the wearer.

The handloom industry has to face severe competition from the powerlooms. As the powerlooms do not pay excise duties and other statutory dues, they can compete not only with the mills but also cause harassment to the handloom sector. The situation becomes really worse when there is a large number of unauthorised powerlooms. Such unauthorised powerlooms pose a serious threat to the survival of the handloom industry because the powerlooms turn out cheap cloth. As one powerloom can displace six handlooms, the Centre is averse to the regularisation of unauthorised powerlooms. The Central Government's sympathy and consideration for the welfare of handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu are well borne out by the fact that it turned down a request for an additional quota of 10,000 powerlooms for enabling it to regularise about the same number of unauthorised powerlooms. The Centre has also decided against any further expansion of powerloom sector during the Fifth Plan.

Assistance during Plans :

During the various Five Year Plans the Centre has given financial assistance for the development of handloom industry in Tamil Nadu. The assistance was given in the form of block loans and grants for a group of village and small industries which also included handloom industry. Thus a substantial part of the expenditure incurred during various Five Year Plans on the development of the handloom industry in Tamil Nadu represented Central assistance.

The actual expenditure incurred on the development of the handloom industry during the different Plans is as follows :

Period	*Rs in Lakhs*
II Plan ..	658.24
III Plan ..	755.11
IV Plan ..	971.40

The tentative total outlay for Fifth Plan is Rs. 14.50 crores. Out of this, the expenditure incurred during the first year of the Fifth Plan was Rs. 2.53 crores. The anticipated expenditure during 1975—76 is Rs. 5.32 crores.

Technical Assistance :

To meet the technological needs of the handloom industry, an Institute of Handloom Technology was set up at Salem. This institute is one of two of its kind, the other being located at Varanasi. It provides training for the technical personnel required by the handloom industry. The activities of the institute are proposed to be expanded further in order to help revitalisation and development of the handloom sector.

In addition to the institute at Salem the Government has set up two Weavers' Service Centres at Kanchipuram and Madras. These two are among the 15 such centres for the whole country. The activities of these centres have helped in introducing new designs and technical improvements and thereby boosting the marketing of handloom products.

AN EXPORT INDUSTRY WHICH NEEDS NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE

There are over three million handlooms in the country which account for more than 25% of the total cloth production. What is more important in the present context of the balance of payment crisis, is that while the import content of this industry is negligible the export earnings from handloom products exceed Rs. 100 Crores.

In addition, the Government has decided to launch an intensive handloom development project to cater to the weavers outside the co-operative field. The scheme provides for modernisation of looms, Central yarn bank, design centres and processing facilities and assistance for marketing. The Centre's assistance will be 75 per cent in the first three years and 50 per cent in the next two years.

It is also proposed to bring 60 per cent of the handlooms under the co-operative sector within the next three years. At present, the Centre is consdering a proposal costing Rs. 4.5 crores to provide alternative credit, inputs, processing and marketing facilities in order to free the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu from dependence on commercial sources which has so long exploited them.

IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN INDIA

—Sarojini Varadappan.

The observance of International Women's Year in India officially concluded recently with the Prime Minister's address to the National Committee of International Women's Year at New Delhi. A function which marks the end of one year, in fact, has opened doors for a whole decade to focus attention and to take measures for involvement of women in the development process of the nation.

It is true neither the status of women can undergo a change overnight, nor the attitude of society change at a mere call of women. Yet, the International Women's Year which has been observed not only in India but all over the world, as Prime Minister said, " has at least been able to focus the attention of mankind, that the woman is also a part of the whole humanity and that men and women together make the mankind. In any society, there can be no development without peace, and there can be no peace without equality."

It, therefore, implies that women must have equality with men to be able to play their role effectively. India's achievements during the International Women's Year and plans for the future have to be assessed in the light of the United Nations appeal to the Government and non-Governmental organisations as well as the entire international community, to urgently introduce all necessary measures for abolishing discriminatory laws and practices, in order to guarantee the complete implementation of the rights of women and an improvement in their situation.

" World Plan of Action "

These have also to be assessed in the light of the ' World Plan of Action ' adopted at the World Conference of the United Nations in the Mexico City in 1975, which called upon the Government to take measures for equality between men and women. The Plan states that the Governments should re-examine their legislation concerning the status of women under the internationally recognised principles of human rights and norms.

Three important agencies in India at the national level and the State level enabled Indian women to assess the problems of women and suggest future actions. A National CommitteeforInternationalWomen's Year, headed by the Prime Minister herself, was constituted at the Centre. Similar committees were constituted in the States. These committees guided the work of the International Women's Year in India at the Government level.

At the non-Governmental level, forty-one women's voluntary organisations collaborated to form the Indian Committee for International Women's Year. This worked on a common programme, throughout the year and throughout the length and breadth of the country.

The Committee arranged a phased programme for twelve months during which public attention was focussed on basic issues affecting women. Some of the subjects on which attention was drawn were the social laws affecting women, problems of working women and the rural women labour force.

Two methods were used to get a consensus of opinion. The educated groups of women in high schools and colleges were invited by the Government to compete in essay competitions on the theme of the year. The rural women who are technically illiterate, but decidedly more articulate, were given opportunity to speak in groups under the cover of seminars and symposia, to give their views.

Since the programmes of the Central Social Welfare Board are spread all over the country including the remote, rural and far-flung areas of the country, the Board held a series of women's meets by way of seminars and symposia, where the rural women were brought together to share their thoughts on what the International Women's Year meant in terms of their living conditions. It also collaborated with other agencies in organising leadership training camps and ' Mahila Shibirs' in sevesal States.

Seminars and Symposia are normally labelled as mere talking sessions but it is amazing with what frankness, coviction and clarity of mind, women from most backward and rural areas were able to talk on diverse issues. At places, their recommendations confounded the more educated women for their understanding of problems.

Concerted Efforts :

The recommendations they made at these seminars cover subjects ranging from social welfare policy to provision of basic amenities. Under this, the Central and State Governments have been urged to bring all programmes dealing with women and children under one department and associating women with the working of such departments. Panchayat institutions have been urged to make a compulsory allocation, from their general revenues for programmes relating to women and children.

The Government has been requested to make available the surplus agricultural land and building sites, acquired under Land Reforms Act and Urban Property Ceiling Act, to voluntary, educational or welfare institutions. Women have urged for an ownership right on land and equal share in ancestral property.

In matters of law relating to women, whereas Equal Remuneration for Equal Work Ordinance, issued by the Government during the International Women's Year, has been hailed, there is a cry for drastic measures to extend the arm of law to such industries, which employ large number of women and are yet outside the purview of labour laws.

There is a general demand from women that the customary laws and the personal laws, particularly those relating to marriage and divorce, which subjugate women in some communities to an inferior position should be altered and there should be a uniform law governing women in India.

Since economic independence has a great relevance to the status of women, there has been a universal demand for better job opportunities, part-time employment, availability at reasonable prices of such gadgets that reduce the burden of housekeeping and opportunities for self-employment in cottage industries.

Industrial Complexes for Women :

Responding to these needs, the Central Social Welfare Board has initiated several schemes during the

International Women's Year. At Ernakulam in Kerala, a company has been floated for establishing an industrial complex employing exclusively women.

The complex will have units for galvanizing, anodizing, manufacture of pins, hooks, gem-clips and a foundry. Floated as a private limited company with an authorised capital of 10 lakh rupees, women themselves are raising the capital.

Similar complexes are coming up in Andhra Pradesh and other States. In Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, Women'sFinance Corporations have been established for financing industrial projects started by women.

Wherever such complexes have been initiated, the State Governments have offered free sheds and all other facilities. In addition, the existing programmes of the Central Social Welfare Board have been diversified to open new avenues for employment to women.

The vocational training programmes and socio-economic schemes of the Board, today enable a large number of women to enter new vocations like radio assembly, T.V., photography, electroplating and other assembly lines.

In 1975—76 alone, the Central Social Welfare Board has sanctioned 251 Vocational Training Courses at the cost of about 60 lakh rupees. These will benefit over 5,000 women: 106 socio-economic units, which include garment-making units, printing presses, handloom and handicraft units and other small-scale industries, have been sanctioned another 60 lakhs, for providing employment to 3,000 women from lower income groups. 85 dairy units in the rural areas serve needy women and the families of the freed bonded labour.

With larger number of women coming in for full-time employment, the Government of India has considerably increased its allocations for construction of hostels for working women, and creches for the children of working women.

Singular Achievement :

Probably the singular achievement of the International Women's year has been the great awareness created in the masses, against social customs and social evils, which corrode the society. There has been a full-throated condemnation of the custom of dowry.

States like Bihar, Punjab and Haryana have passed legislation making dowry a penal offence. The Government has amended the Government Service Conduct Rules which prohibits government servants from 'taking and giving' dowry to their children in marriages. The most heartening aspect is the mass movement in which the youth, particularly the girls, have taken pledges not to marrywhere dowry is involved.

The awareness has penetrated other areas of hard core. Family Planning programme, which hitherto had relevance only in terms of exploding population, has acquired a new significance in the light of poor health of women, resulting from repeated pregnancies.

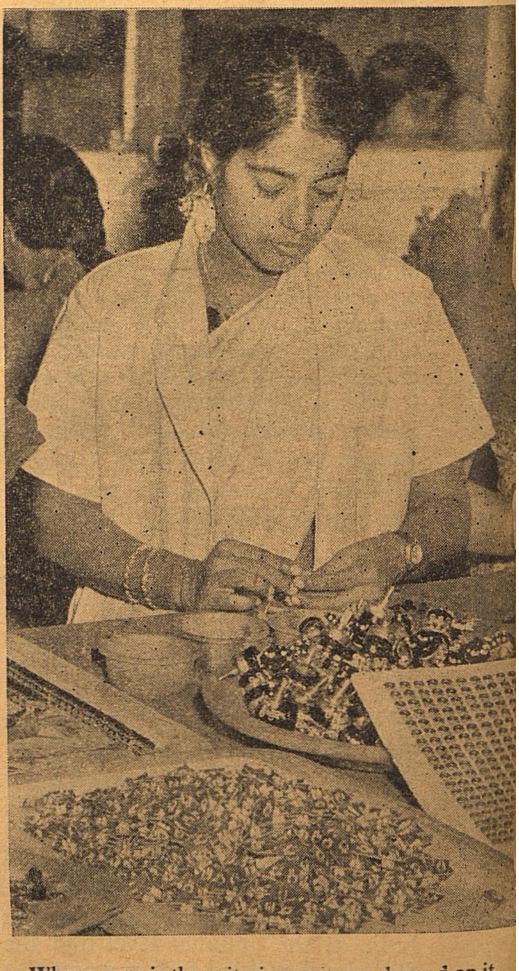
If women's voice is any indication of their awareness, over 2,000 rural women at a seminar have demanded withdrawal of all educational facilities and health services from couples having more than three children, henceforth.

The echo of their cries to put a halt to the drinking habits of their men and to put a stop to the liquor consumption, has found a response in the bold step of the Government, which has launched a 12-point programme for prohibition in the International Women's Year. This would go a long way in giving the much needed reliefs to families.

In final analysis, the International Women's Year has shaken the women from apathy and ignorance, and given them hopes for a better future. They are ready to do their part. If this upsurge is not to be lost, urgent steps are needed to channelise their enthusiasm. Fortunately, the Government has already worked out a future plan of Action and is evolving a national machinery to implement this plan.

The Central Social Welfare Board has granted Rs. 30 lakhs to the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board for this year, as against the last year's allotment of Rs. 18 lakhs.

This was stated here by the Chairman of the CSWB, Mrs. Sarojini Varadappan, at the inaugural function of the State level seminar organised by the State Social Welfare Board to mark the conclusion of the International Women's Year, at Stella Maris College.



Where care is the criterion you can depend on it that it's woman who will take good care whether it is a fragile infant or minute parts of an electronic devise, women have a job cut out.

OUR PENAL SYSTEM IS ON TRIAL

The penal system for correcting the offenders has stabilised itself over the years. The young offenders are taken care of in a variety of institutions such as "Borstal School" and "Approved Schools." In the case of adult offenders there are jails and "Open Prisons." Whatever the system, the rigid sentence does not seem to be telling. The parole system offers much scope for correction and achieving the ultimate ambition of all prison officials, "keeping criminals out and getting them out of prisons."

The Borstal School derives its name from the town by that name in Kent, England, where this form of correctional imprisonment was first tried in 1902. The main aim of the treatment in Borstal School is to give youthful offenders, whose minds are still plastic, a new outlook and a new bent, by the personal influence and example of the staff, with a view to create a corporate spirit and a standard of social behaviour, which may persist after release. The task is not to break or knead them into shape but to stimulate their power within to regulate conduct aright. Borstal training requires that each inmate shall be dealt with as an individual who needs individualised treatment. Borstal institution is not polytechnic, but it gives necessary training to the inmates to earn an honest living after release. Its underlying concept is the correction of the youthful offenders by means of segregation from older 'hard' criminals plus a disciplined regimen of training and education, which is administered by a staff consiting of Psychologist, Social Workers, Doctor and Teachers under custodial officers. There is a Borstal School at Pudukkottai wherein adolescent offenders of age group 18 to 23 committed by Courts are confined and given treatment under the rules of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925. The minimum period of confinement is 2 years, and the maximum 5 years. This Borstal School was originally functioning at Thanjavur from where it was shifted to the Palayamkottai in the year 1929, and from there it was transferred to the present building at Pudukkottai in the year 1968. **A dormitory for confinement of adolescent offenders aged between 21 and 25 years sentenced to undergo imprisonment, but not coming under the purview of the Borstal School Act, has also been provided within the campus of the present building of Borstal School, to which such youthful offenders, committed to prisons, are transferred and given borstal treatment.**

Approved School :

Approved School (formerly named as Certified School) is intended for the reformation of the juvenile delinquents. Till 1887 their care and reformation was in the hands of Philonthrophists. In the year 1883 this work was taken up by the Education department and continued till 1924. In the meanwhile the then Madras Government, which felt the need for institutional care of the juvenile delinquents, enacted the Madras Children Act in the year 1920. This Act stands as the first of its kind in dealing with the juvenile delinquency and its reformation in India. This Act stands as the framework of the correctional institutions of the Department of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service. Approved Schools in Tamil Nadu are divided into two categories *viz.*, Junior Approved Schools and Senior Approved Schools. Juvenile delinquents committed by courts to a minimum period of two years in the age group between 8 and 16 are admitted in the Junior Approved Schools and those in the group age of 12 and 18 are admitted in the Senior Approved Schools. Junior Approved Schools are situated at Thanjavur, Ranipet and Cuddalore ; and Senior Approved Schools are at Thattaparai and Chingleput, which are under the administrative control of the Director of Approved Schools and Vigilance Service. In addition to the approved schools maintained by the State Government, there are fourteen Approved Schools and Remand Homes run by private management by getting grant-in-aid from the State Government. These Homes are also subject to inspection by the Director of Approved Schools. An after Care Home, exclusively for women offenders, is at present functioning at Vellore, which gives training to those inmates in garment stitching, holdall making etc. In general, Approved Schools are working on the lines of Borstal School.

Parole :

The objects of releasing a prisoner on parole are :—

(i) to enable the prisoner to maintain continuity with his family life and deal with family matters ;

(ii) to save the prisoner from the evil effects of continuous prison life ;

(iii) to enable the prisoner to maintain and develop his self-confidence ; and

(iv) to enable the prisoner to maintain constructive hope and active interest in life.

The system of parole has been much encouraged and well behaved prisoners are sent out on parole without much difficulty. The Superintendents have been given powers to release good conduct prisoners on parole for a period of 15 days to attend important function in the family. This helps the long termers and lifers to get moved in outside conditions and prepare themselves for ultimate release. Of course, leave or parole is not a right, but it is a concession which may be granted to convicts. There are two kinds of parole applicable to prisoners :

(i) **Short parole granted by the Superintendents upto 15 days under the powers vested in them ; and**

(ii) **Long parole for periods beyond 15 days under orders of Government. A liberal policy is being adopted in releasing prisoners on parole in two years.**

Probation :

The most important concept in the sphere of treatment is probation. Probation is neither a leniency nor a 'let-off.' It is a method of treatment of offenders, depending upon the judicial disrcetion to be exercised only aftrer a person has been found guilty. It is an alternative to imprisonment and choice has to be made if an offender can better be kept outside the prison in the interest of society or in his own interest. Probation is a humanitarian and humane method of treatment in the field of criminal corrections. It is an integral part of any and every type of treatment of youthful offenders or adult criminals.

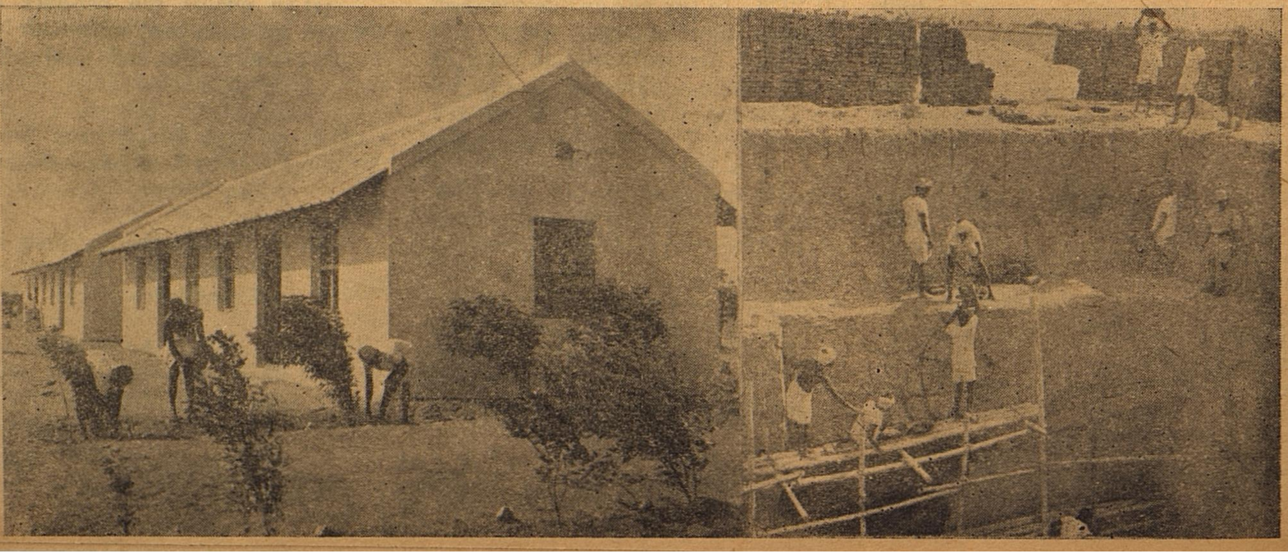
In 1841 the pioneer or father of probation, John Augustus of Boston, started taking out of a prisoner by offering bail for him for a temporary suspension or postponement of his sentence ; he took the man, counselled him, found a home and rehabilitated him. His crude, own-invented system proved very successful. His shop at Chambers street became the first probation office in the world, where the first Assistant to the " Probation Officer" was his wife. Probation work commenced in the United States in rudimentary form in 1881, when the Howard Association issued a pamphlet on its working. This concept of probation gradually developed. The subsequent successful experimental led to the passage of the first probation law in 1878 by the Legislature of Massachusetts, which was duly followed by other States also. In England a bill sponsoring release " on probation of good conduct," was moved in 1886 by Howard Vincent ; though passed by the House of Commons it was rejected by the House of Lords. Later, in 1907, a Government sponsored bill was passed into Act, which applied to both children and adults. But the present structure of probation service in England was regulated in 1925. The 1948 Act has superseded all previous laws. The first legislative effort in India in the direction of probation was the enactment of section 562 in the Criminal Procedure Code. 1898, which applied to offences of theft, theft in a building, dishonest misappropriation, cheating or any other offence under the Indian Penal Code punishable with not more than 2 years' imprisonment. In 1923 more serious offences were added to this section. Madras and Madhya Pradesh Acts were passed in 1936, while the Bombay and Uttar Pradesh Acts were passed in 1938. In the objects and reasons for the Probation of Offenders Act, passed by the Indian Parliament in 1958, it has been stated that " there has been an increasing emphasis on the reformation and rehabilitation of the offender as an useful and self-reliant member of society without subjecting him to the deleterious effects of jail life."

Probation saves tax-payer's money and rehabilitates the convicts. It is no more challenged by any agency. The little failure of probation is not in the method of treatment, but the failure of the environment and society to sustain the treatment. As the vicious cricle of never-ending demands, broken family life, desperation, dejection, disintegrated family etc. continue, all the cure is washed-off with the detergent of social evils and a weak-willed character again succumbs to unsocial situations. Probation can give the message of reformation. Unless a philosophy of social work enshrined in spiritual values, which have inherent and intrinsic virtue, is also evolved, merely mundane approach to the problems of reformation shall not prove successful. Probation Service, although ill-organised, is much more successful in India, because social norms are yet not confused like the West and Indian society itself is the best probation officer.

Open Prisons :

The establishment of " Open Prisons " has not taken place abruptly. For quite a number of years in many agricultural institutions security measures were reduced to a minimum. The Witzwill prison in Switzerland, created by Kellerhals in 1891, is one of the best known examples. In the Workhouse of Occoquan near Washington, Prisoners serving upto one year live in a prison without walls. The Norfolk prison in Massachusetts is in a way an experiment of an open institution.

The Pictures below and at p. 23 are of Open-air prison, Thanjavur.



In England, in the 1930's, some open Borstal institutions were organised. Gradually, the method expanded and after the Second World War, the problem came to the forefront, when the advantages of the open prisons were stressed and their extension to the largest number of prisoners was suggested. After 1950, use of the open institutions markedly increased in many countries, especially in Sweden.

The success of the open regime is one of the most striking developments in prison methods since the beginning of this century. The success of the open prisons was due to the attitude of many prisoners who accept their sentence and do not want to play " hide and seek " with the police. Other reasons for the success of this method are of a psychological nature. Open prisons are and will probably be considered for a long time, as exceptions to an ordinary regime of closedinstitutions. The open regime is a favour granted to the prisoner, and he knows that he will be sent to a closed prison if he misbehaves or tries to escape. Furthermore, in a well managed institution, a spirit of solidarity seems to prevail between inmates. The open prison regime is gaining ground. It presents many advantages : improving the mental and physical health of the prisoner; making conditions of imprisonment closer to the patterns of normal life and in a more general way, suppressing the tensions and creating a better atmosphere for reforming the prisoner.

In Tamil Nadu, the Open Air Jail at Thanjavur, was started in the year 1969 on an area of 114 acres, with the following objectives :

(i) **To relieve congestion in walled prisons ;**

(ii) **To train prisoners in proper methods of agriculture for their future rehabilitations;**

(iii) **To make jails self-sufficient in Agricultural produce ;**

(iv) **To give a certain amount of freedom on trust to well behaved prisoners ; and**

(v) **To further the principles of custody and treatment embodied in minimum custody prisons.**

Usually well behaved prisoners who were convicted under Sections 302, 307 and 326 of I.P.C. and who know agriculture, are transferred from various Central Prisons for work in the Open Air Jail. The Question of enlarging this coverage of prisoners is under consideration. There is a second Open Air Jail, on a smaller scale, at Singanallur in Coimbatore district.

Part-Time Prisoners :

The characteristic of this new trend in prison treatment lies in the interruptions of the imprisonment. Curiously enough, some offenders are now liberated in order to work in private enterprises, sometimes even to practice their own trade or profession. By so doing we have gone a long way from the old penal servitude. Work of the offender is no longer part and parcel of the sentences. On the contrary, the normal occupation of the offender is carefully preserved during his imprisonment. Such is, at least, the position of the Belgian experiment. The Belgian experiment, started in 1963, allowed the Prosecutors General and Prison Directors to execute short prison terms under the form of weekend arrests or semidetention. Weekend arrests are applicable to the execution of sentences not exceeding one to two months, and mainly for following offences : fraud or falsification, nonsupport, drunkenness, homicide or wounding in a traffic accident, driving under the influence of alchohol and driving a car while not insured. Other types of offenders may occasionally benefit by this system. When a case seems favourable to the prosecutor, his office contacts the offender before the execution of the sentence and asks him if he wants to undergo his sentence during the weekends. If so, he should come to the prison every Saturday at 2-00 P.M. to be released on Monday at 6-00 A.M. Every weekend counts for two days, which means that a sentence of one month has to be served during 15 consecutive weekends. If, in the meantime the offender changes his mind or if he does not observe the conditions agreed upon, he will have to serve his sentence in the ordinary continuous way to which he had been sentenced by the court.

Work Release :

The concept of Work Release is prevalent in America. This is much akin to the semidetention. This is another system of discontinued or part-time imprisonment. It is applicable to sentences upto 3 months. The kind of offences is not specified. Under this regime, the prisoner is liberated every morning, at a time in accordance with his working hours, and presents himself at the prison immediately after his workday. This means that detention is interrupted only during the work hours. This regime is very similar to the older method of semiliberty, but with an important difference : semidetention is started from the beginning of the sentence, while semiliberty is generally considered as a transition between imprisonment and normal life. The acceptance or refusal of the semidetention regime is decided by the prosecutor in the same way as for the weekend arrest. Both systems have a common aim : to preserve, whenever it is possible, the offender's normal occupation in order not to punish the innocent family and to avoid, for many offenders, the difficulties of finding another job when liberated. It cannot be denied, however, that with these forms of imprisonment, the principle of "work as part of the punishment " has been wholly " exorcised," to use Sir Lionel Fox's expression. This system was evolved through a radical elimination of labour from the prison regime.

Halfway House :

This system of halfway house is not present in India as it is in many countries, specially in the United States. Halfway house is a process of resocialisation whereby an individual who is social, undergoes a series of " experiences which are designed to ensure future good behaviour " on his or her part. It also affords the criminal to plan out his future with determination, away from the prison premises, in a more congenial and free situation. Patrick P. Deehy said, " large custodial institutions supply the raw material for halfway house. Roles learned in a prison can carry over to the halfway houses, particularly if the recruits are all obtained from the same prison setting." The most critical time for the ex-prisoner is that immediately after release, one of the most promising new approaches in corrections is that of " halfway house " or " pre-release guidance." The services at the halfway house are : **(i) employment placement ; (ii) individual and group counselling ; and (iii) introduction to community agencies and resources.** Halfway houses, some run by the Government and others by private agencies, in which a period of resi-

dential treatment, supervision, and assistance is provided while the offender works or attends school outside. Still another programme is the "Community Treatment Centre" a daytime institution, where offenders can live at home, perhaps have a job or go to school and attend the entire day for intensive rehabilitation. Dr. Robert opines, 'Halfway houses are no panacea for the treatment of the delinquent. However, the halfway house does introduce a new resource which seems to be a better answer for certain children."

After-Care :

Bernard Shaw not only called the prison system extremely cruel, but exposed it as a fraud. It is a fraud, first of all, Shaw said, because the retributive theory upon which it is dependent is in itself fraudulent. The convicted offender who is sent to prison is given an express or implied assurance, in society's name that when he has served his sentence, and so made the appropriate reparation, the slate will be wiped clean. But this is a bargain that society almost invariably dishonours. "I have paid, but I did not owe the debt," wrote the late Horatio Bottomley upon his release from jail, after serving 7 years for robbing investors of their savings. The payment that was said to be the debt he owed and that has been exacted from him in full, is not accepted as payment at all, since he is not freely allowed to-re establish himself in society. This failure on society's part to keep its part of the retributive bargain is one reason why there have to be the "After-Care" services ; Officials or private organisations, which do what they can, in the teeth of prejudice and distrust, to find honest employment for discharge prisoners and to prevent them gravitating towards the only community which shows any real willingness to receive them — the criminal community. "After-Care" also exists to help people adjust to the responsibilities of normal living, from which they have been entirely divorced in prison. But the expression is misleading, because it conjures up the idea of a period of convalescence which a sick person needs upon being discharged from a hospital, whereas in the case of a prisoner it is only the "care" which has made the "After-Care" necessary. One may perceive a tacit admission of this in the "Hostel Scheme" or "Training for freedom" programme, another much vaunted progressive measure. This negation of virtually all the punitive conditions of ordinary imprisonment, in order to "retain" selected candidates "for freedom," hardly encourages the belief that conditions in jail have been suited for fitting prisoners to "lead a good and useful life" on discharge. In Tamil Nadu we have an After-Care Home for Males at Pallavaram which is doing useful work in reforming and rehabilitating ex-prisoners.

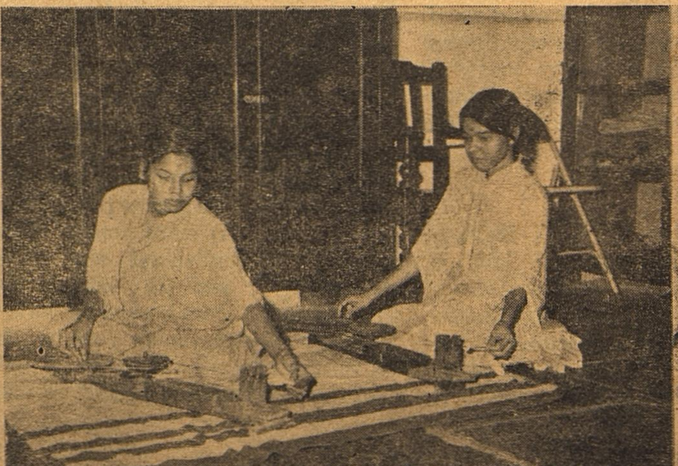
Legislation :

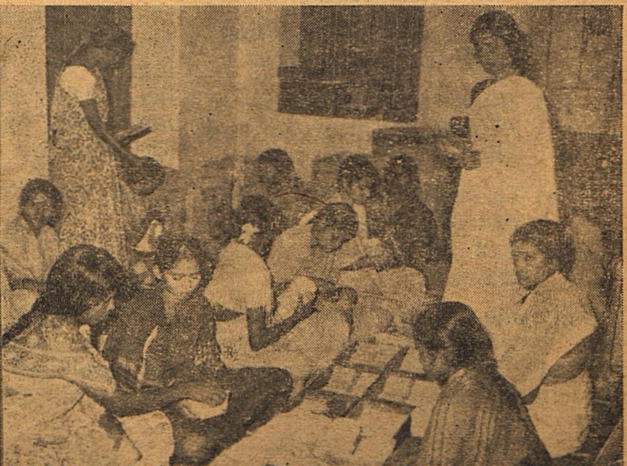
The modern thinking on legislation set out to solve the main problems might be defined as follows: how to reduce the length of prison sentences and of the terms actually served in prison by not particularly dangerous offenders, but at the same time to provide sufficient safeguards against really dangerous ones ; how to ensure greater equality of sentence between courts ; how best to distribute the power of fixing the prison terms between courts and administrative bodies, especially parole boards. It is further in view that "the offence is not an useful guide to the sentence," that the individual offender should matter to the sentence rather than the offence. The thinking is also strongly against legally fixed minimum terms and against the statutory exclusion of probation for certain offences or because of the offender's previous convictions, as the latter are regarded as unreliable guides to sentencing. The modern trends are that sentences should be made more flexible and more equal by legislative and administrative measures and that a new type of "supervision — or — custody" sentence with a maximum of 3 years, which should leave it open whether the sentence begins with a spell in the open or in the institution, with the actual decisions left to a local treatment board.

Conclusion :

Times have changed and are changing fast. With all the big strides in the study and analysis of crime and criminals, with all the resources of advanced psychology and psychotherapy, we are nowhere near any solution for checking or curbing increasing criminality or delinquency. All schemes of rehabilitation and after-care have not reduced recidivism. Power, wealth, and prosperity have multiplied and accelerated deviant behaviour. The youth is on rampage. Juveniles are getting beyond control, adolescents are swelling the ranks of wayward and adults are deftly competing with youngsters in reducing law and order to a farce. The poorer the country, the more illiterate it is ; but has lesser crime problem. In the present parlance, industrialisation means criminalisation ; freedom means beastly satisfaction of sex hunger. It is a moot point whether environmental pollution is more serious or mental pollution. So sociologists and criminologists have a great responsibility in evolving suitable corrective concepts to improve the existing state of affairs.

The Abhaya Nilayam, is an institution that cares for women left in the lurch.





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(Given below are excerpts from the address by President Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed at the Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 19th March, 76.)

President's Praise of Tamil Nadu Governor's Restraint In face of Prolonged Maladministration

I had mentioned in my address to the Parliament in February 1975 that while the nation was straining every nerve to meet formidable challenges in the economic and social front, it was most regrettable that some groups were actively doing everything possible to weaken the will and determination of the people and to sap the *cohesion* and unity of purpose so necessary in the task of national reconstruction. They claimed their objective was total revolution and the elimination of corruption, but in reality what they were attempting led directly to violence and disruption of the political and economic life of the country. The Government has always been conscious of the need for reform in several spheres of national life and have always welcomed constructive suggestions for improvement. The transformation of the society that we contemplate is possible only by taking into account various points of view and through the widest possible co-operation. **But disruption of the existing system or throwing the existing institutions out of gear, with no workable alternative, will only hinder the progress of the country and endanger its stability. I was greatly distressed to note that my appeal went unheeded.**

The emergency indeed has provided us with a new opportunity to go ahead with discipline and determination and to work with greater zeal and a sense of certainty of achieving our goals. But we must spare no pains nor should we relax our efforts in keeping up this climate of work, discipline and mutual co-operation. We must subordinate everything else to the greater good of the country and give up the attitude of perpetuating dissensions and differences. In this context, it is heartening to note the spirit of accommodation in which some of the States have settled long-standing inter-State water disputes. Given the will and a spirit of accommodation, there is no problem that cannot be solved in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. I am sure that, in the same spirit, efforts will be made to settle amicably other issues like inter-State border adjustments. Here, the Governors can play a useful role in helping public opinion to realise that long-standing issues like boundary disputes are to be settled in a spirit of give and take, keeping in view the unity and integrity of the country as a whole.

Mr. K. K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, recounted the circumstances under which he had to submit a report to the President recommending taking over of the administration of the State by the President. He said corruption had become rampant at all levels and he made particular mention of the way in which temple funds and co-operative institutions were mismanaged. The imposition of President's rule in Tamil Nadu. he said, was widely welcomed by the people and the 20 Point Programme was now being implemented with a new vigour and earnestness. The people had heaved a sigh of relief that the D.M.K. Government had come to an end.

Some States failed to respond

While the Governmental machinery throughout the country had been geared to meet the new challenges, it was unfortunate that this call for discipline was not heededby some States which failed to respond to the need of the times. The recent events in Tamil Nadu brought into sharp focus the role of a Governor. He cannot be a silent spectator to the events around him and he would indeed be going against his oath of office if he failed to keep a vigilant and watchful eye for the well being of the people of the State. **A Governor by the very nature of his position has to observe great restraint before deciding to intervene. It would be clear from the report of the Governor of Tamil Nadu that considerable restraint was exercised by him for a long time in the hope that the Ministry might improve its style of functioning and that things might take a turn for the better. A Governor will be abdicating his responsibility to the people and to the Constitution if he turned a blind eye to the mal-administration and corruption which may be overtly or covertly supported by the Government of the State. The Governor has also to take note of any action that threatens the integrity and solidarity of the country.** It was such a situation that was developing in Tamil Nadu and the Governor, after considerable deliberation, sent a report to me recommending President's rule in that State.

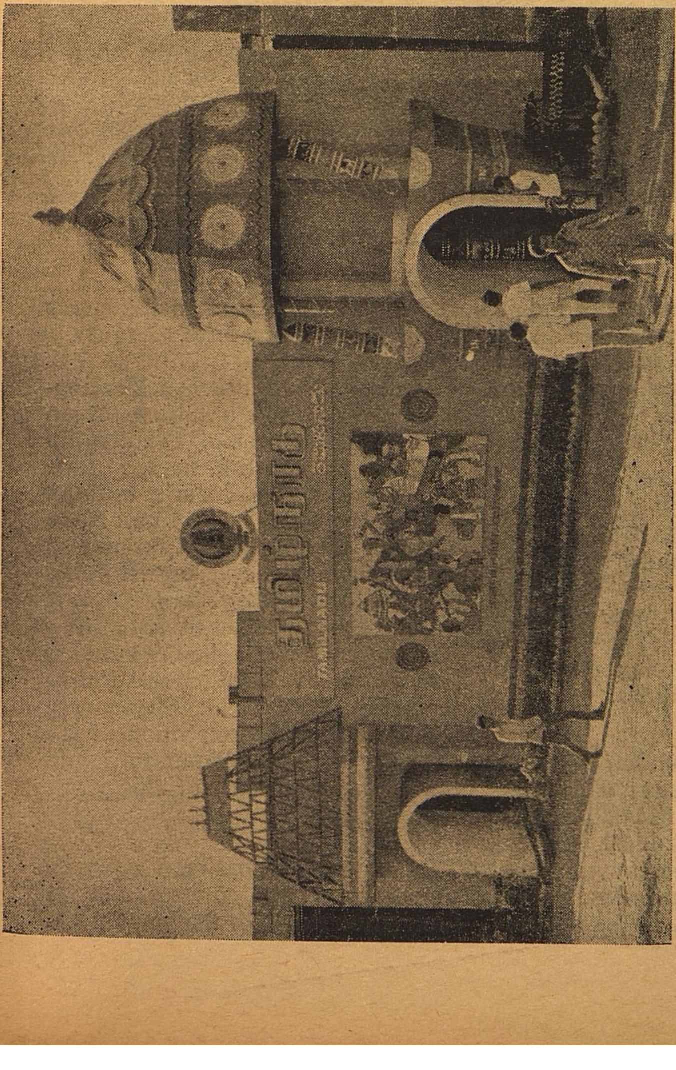
The 20 Point Programme is a firm Base

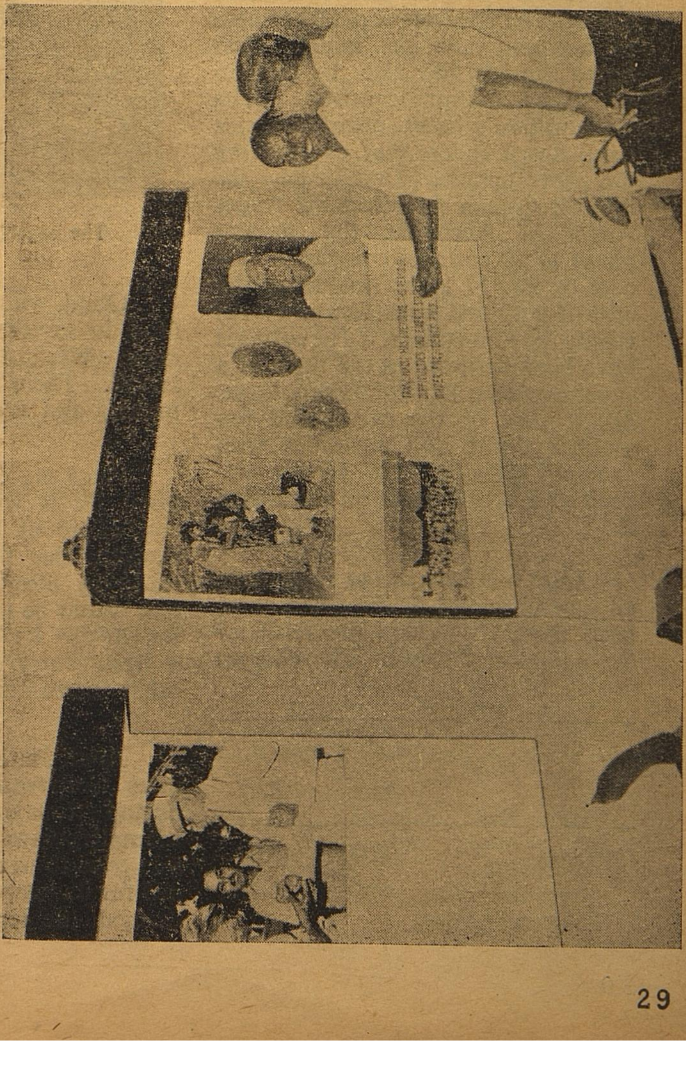
The 20-point economic programme announced by the Prime Minister embraces the major spheres of our economy touching the lives of the people. It has provided us with a firm base to secure a just economic order where exploitation of the weak by the strong could be put an end to. My Secretariat has already circulated to you a brief note on the review of implementation of the 20-point economic programme. What we have gained in the short period of nine months is indeed praiseworthy In spite of a rising inflationary spiral all over the world, in India we have been able to contain it. This is no small achievement. One would be able to see the result of the steps taken by the Government to achieve anew economic order as time goes by As you would have noticed, the 20-point economic programme is designed to provide for the weaker and vulnerable sections some measure economic opportunities and relief. **Particularly land reforms and provision of house-sites for landless and weaker sections, abolition of bonded labour, liquidation of rural indebtedness and assurance of minimum agricultural wages tackle the problem of rural poverty at its roots.** The different measures to which I have made a reference can be successful only if we provided the necessary economic wherewithal so that the weaker sections can stand on their feet. In the first place, we should ensure that the land allotted, for cultivation of house-sites, should really come into the hands of those for whom it is intended. Simultaneously provision should be made for credit on reasonable terms for taking up improved cultivation and for building of houses. The State Governments must also be particularly vigilant to see that the beneficiaries who are from among the weakest sections of the society are not harassed by petty officials or by powerful vested interests. Millions in the country who were hitherto denied a semblance of decent life can then look forward to the future with some degree of hope.

Tamil Nadu Exhibition At Bangalore

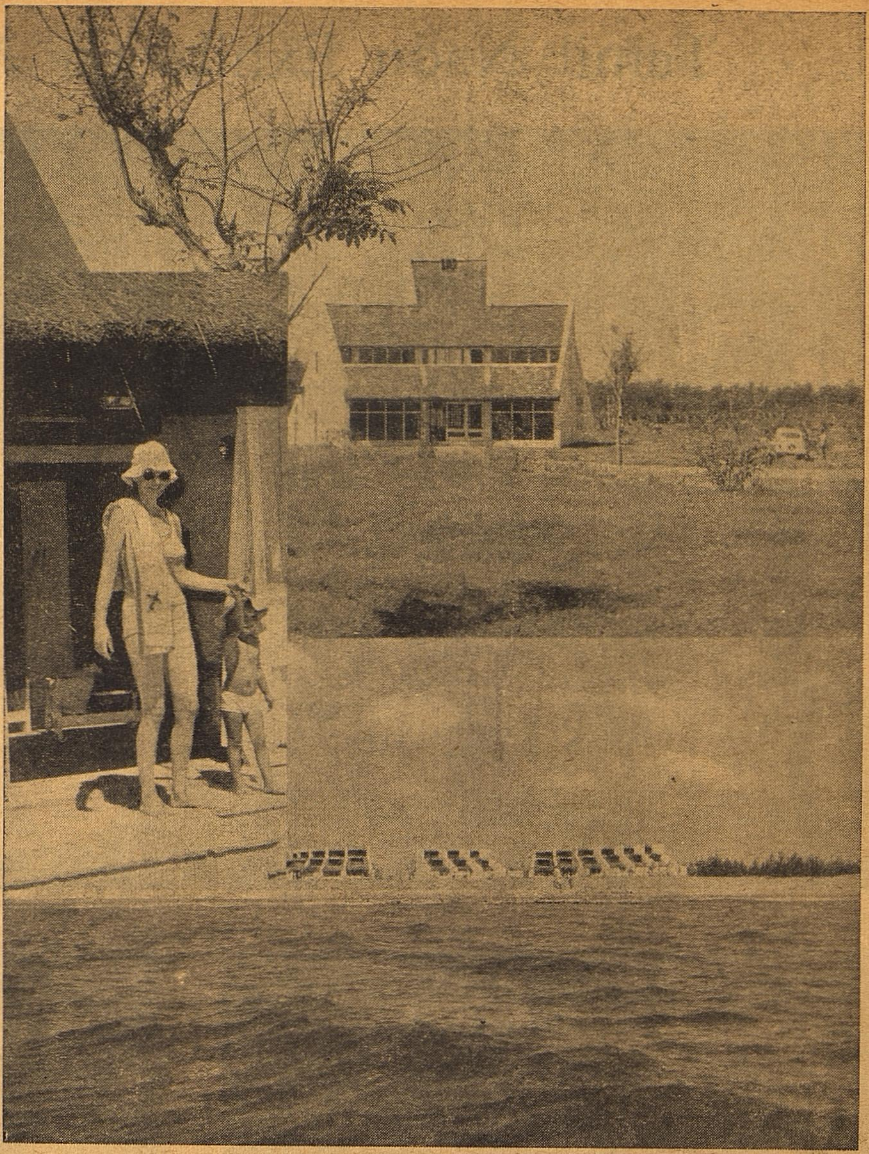
At left the mammoth Crowd which attended Prime Minister's Public Meeting in Madras on 15—2—76.

Below left the facade and below right happy faces of Tamils in President's Rule.





THE MAMALLAPURAM T. T. D. C. BEACH COMPLEX GIVES SUN, SAND AND SEA AT EVERY DOOR-STEP



The eager beachers find a safe haven in the T. T. D. C. Beach Complex

Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) has the unique distinction of being an international Beach Resort very near to an International Airport (Madras). It is also the abode of the famous Seventh Century Monuments of Pallava Dynasty. The stretch from Tiruvanmiyur (Madras City limits) upto Mamallapuram is being strewn with many beach resort complexes, all of which are designed to serve the high spending groups of tourists.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has constructed a beach resort complex of 20 cottages to accommodate the middle class home tourists and also the budget-conscious foreign tourists. The Corporation's beach resort complex lies in a vast 41 acre-plot, overlooking the shore temple. Designed by the famous French Architect Sir Roger Anger of Auroville, the present phase of 20 cottages completed at a cost of Rs. 17 lakhs (including the cost of land and a restaurant block) is only the fore-runner... The cottages have been designed in the form of a Japanese fan. Each of these cottages has a view of the ocean and has modern decor and amenities with spacious drawing room, private sun-deck and a bed room on mazzanina floor.

Care has been taken to provide all amenities and at the same time, keep the tariff within the reach of the common tourists. The charges are as follows :

	A.C. *Rs.*	*non-A.C.* *Rs.*
Cottages ..	60.00	40.00
Cottages for Single occupancy	45.00	30.00

Good, wholesome South Indian food is served at very reasonable rates. Western type of food is also served. There are facilities for sun-bathing and sea bath.

Plans are under-way to build a hotel block with 80 rooms at a cost of about Rs. 40 lakhs ; it is expected that this block would be ready by next year and the room rent would be in the ragne of about Rs. 20/- to Rs. 25/-. There will be a fresh water swimming pool and other recreation facilities.

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation runs daily conducted tour to Mamallapuram. Mamallapuram is an ideal base for side trips to Kancheepuram, renowned for its temples and silks, Vedanthangal, the reputed bird sanctuary and Thirukalikundram, made famous by the two visiting kites.

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has been set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu to promote tourism in the State and to provide basic tourist facilities all over the State. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation runs a chain of eleven tourist hotels and conducts package tours covering most of the important tourist centres all over the State. The Corporation has plans to build more tourist bungalows in all the identified tourist spots ; and the construction of the cottages at Mamallapuram is an important land-mark of this year's achievements.

The President has been requested to inaugurate the cottages and lay foundation stone for the hotel block.

SIXTY DAYS OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TAMIL NADU

AS SEEN FROM WHAT THE GOVERNOR DID AND SAID

A DAY - TO-DAY RESUME

February 2, 1976

(i) Visited Secretariat and reviewed the law and order in the State. Met all the heads of Departments and acquainted himself with the immediate needs and problems of each Department.

(ii) Presided over the opening ceremony function of the Rani Meyyammai Hostel, at Egmore constructed by the Tamil Nadu Educational Society. **He said admission to the Colleges and hostels of Tamil Nadu Educational Trust will be made purely on merit.**

February 3, 1976

(i) Presided over the meeting of Law Enforcement Officers held at Secretariat and reviewed the situation in the State.

(ii) While presiding Over a function he ordered for the continuance of S. D. Sundaram as Hon. Secretary of Tamil Nadu Iyal Issai Nataka Sangam.

February 4, 1976

(i) Thiru K.K. Shah accompanied by Thiru P.K. Dave and Thiru R. V. Subramaniam (Advisers) inspected the progress of work at Kamaraj Memorial, Guindy.

(ii) Held a security meeting with the authorities dealing with Law and Order at Secretariat and reviewed the situation in the State.

February 6, 1976

Inaugurated city cleaning campaign launched by Thiru V. V. Giri, Former President of India. He suggested establishment of more mobile courts to punish on the spot the civic offenders.

February 8, 1976

Tour in Madurai District

(i) Thiru K.K. Shah issued strict warning that rice merchants, wholesaler or retailer who tried to push up the price will be punished severely under MISA.

(ii) While inaugurating the one day Seminar on Science and Technology for Rural Development at Gandhigram he declared that Government would not tolerate any negative attitude and that no strike or agitation regarding the progress of the nation would be allowed.

February 9, 1976

It was during his Madurai Tour that he assured the people that any embezzlement of Public lands would be viewed seriously and severe action would be taken against offenders. Thiru Shah also promised that Government would provide appropriate sources for easy credit to the people.

P.M.'S. PROGRAMMES IN CITY

February 14, 1976

(i) Presided over Kamaraj Memorial inaugural function (ii) Presided over Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the cardiothoracic Surgery Department of the CMC Hospital at Vellore and paid his tributes that in the history of institutions devoted to medical aid to the people the Christian Medical College Hospital will be entitled to claim for itself an exclusive chapter.

February 15, 1976

Presided over Somangalam Rural Reconstruction Project for 10 villages and said that Scientists and statesmen all over the world had agreed that unless the lowest and the neglected were made to participate in strengthening the foundation of democracy and to building up prosperity, peace could not be ensured. People's social economic backwardness should no longer be allowed to be exploited.

February 16, 1976

Brief meeting with Union Home Minister Brahmananda Reddy about the implementation of Prime Minister's 20 point economic programme.

Governor declared open the new building of Mylapore Academy in Raja Annalamaipuram. He called upon the members of medical profession to pay special attention to the health care of poorer sections of society.

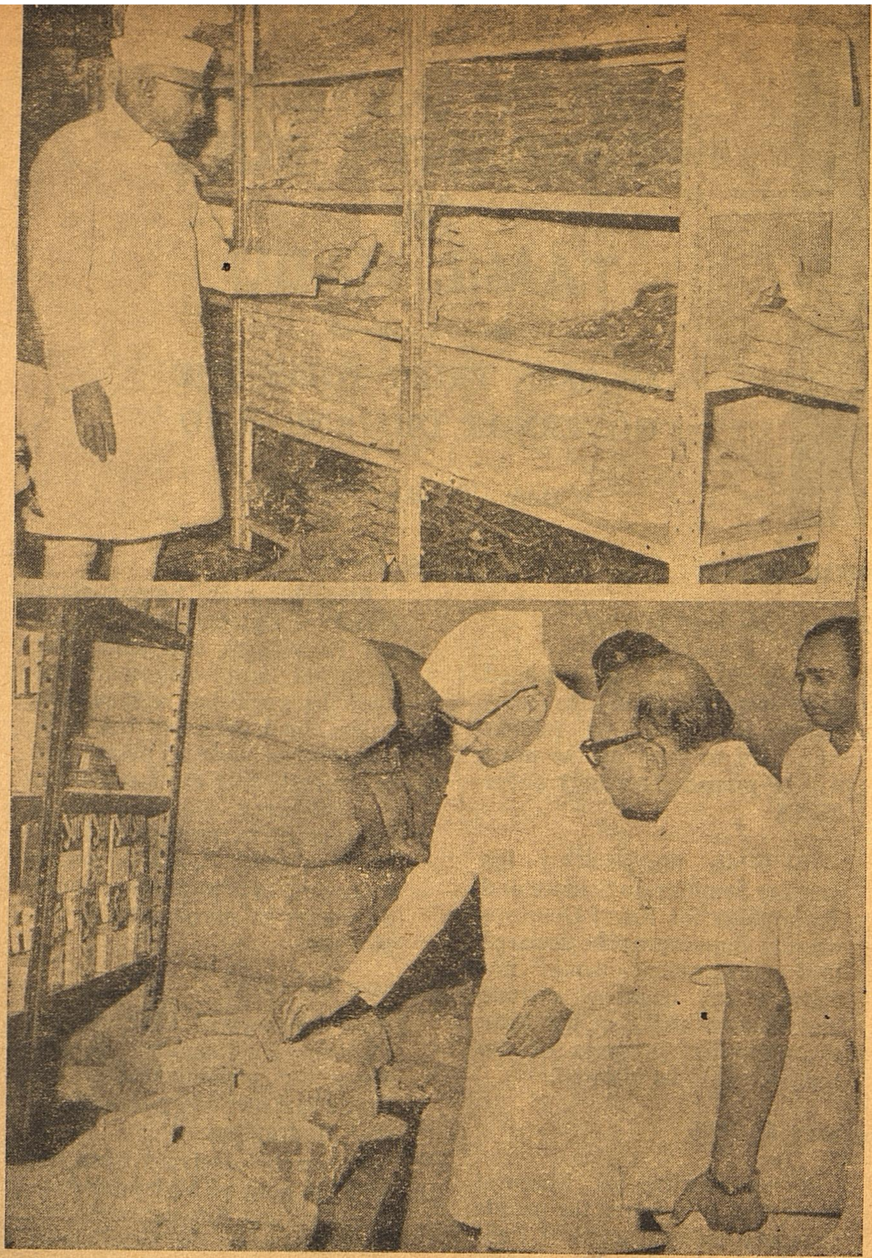
February 17, 1976

Appeared on the T. V. and asked the people to work hard and with dedication to restore the lost image of the State for efficiency and integrity in the State Services.

February 18, 1976

(i) At a Press Conference agreed that hotel prices could be reduced further. Severe action would be taken against shop keepers who have not displayed the prices of commodities.

(ii) Announced that merit would be the criterion for admission to professional Colleges in the ensuing academic year.



Governor Thiru K. K. Shah and Thiru K. Diraviam, Civil Supplies Commissioner inspect retail shops.

19th 20th, February 1976.

In Bombay.

While answering questions after addressing a meeting of the Giants International in Bombay he said that on 24th January the D K Party held a party meeting at Thanjavur wherein revolution and secession were openly advocated and three ministers were present at that time. This had brought forth the downfall of the Ministry, he emphasised.

23rd February.

Inaugurated a system of giving public audience and received more than 5,000 petitions at Secretariat, He promised the petitioners that their grievences would be looked into and measures would be taken immediately to solve their problems.

24th and 25th February.

Governor's tour in Coimbatore District. He Visited in and around drought affected villages of the District. He assured the people that speedier steps would be taken to solve their drinking water and irrigation water problem. While holding a press conference he said that corruption in the administration will be completely rooted out. Needful steps would be taken to solve the sufferings of the common man.

26th February.

Some Sanskrit Scholars approached the Governor and requested him to make Sanskrit a compulsory language in schools. Governor said that no compulsion will be enforced as far as language study was concerned.

AT COLLECTORS' CONFERENCE

27th February.

In his address to the collectors of various Districts he stressed the need for implementing Prime Minister's 20 Point Programme effectively. Corruption should be rooted out completely; Efficiency and integrity in public life should be promoted. Priority should be given to drinking water, rural sanitation and health. Housing for the weaker sections and distribution of land and assignment of house sites for the landless, should be attended to properly.

28 February.

While replying to questions put by the newsmen he said that the Tamil Nadu Government will re-examine shortly the cases of persons detained both under ordinary Law and under the MISA in the wake of imposition of President's rule. Perfect Law and order is maintained throughout the State of Tamil Nadu.

2—3—76 : Governor's Surprise visit to Shops

The Governor visited a large number of reiail shops including those run by the Civil Supplies Corporation, Co-operative organisations and private retailers in Teyampet. Strict instructions to display price lists were given. Systematic measures to maintain the quality of stocks was emphasized.

4—3—76 : Cases Against Co-operatives

The Tamil Nadu Government is re-examining all cases of police investigation into irregularities in Co-operatives which were ordered to be withdrawn before the imposition of President's rule on January 31st, 1976. Thiru Shah said, there was a large number of such cases involving large amounts of money. They were being re-examined " in order to pursue further action."

20 Point Objectives

The urban and Central Co-operative Banks have been asked to reduce the maximum individual loan from Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 1,000/- so as to cover a larger number o middle and poor class people.

5—3—76 : Moratorium on debts in Tamil Nadu extended

An ordinance extending the moratorium on repayment of loans due from agricultural and non-agricultural debtors upto January 15, 1977, was promulgated.

The agriculturists, who had borrowed money during the wide-spread drought in the State, may be able to rehabilitate themselves if they are freed for some time from the pressure of the creditors.

7—3—76 : Tamil Nadu steps on Land Reforms

Legislative measures to bring topes, orchards and lands held as sridhana or given to minors within the ambit of the Land Ceiling Act are being considered by the Tamil Nadu Government. (C.M.'s conference).

9—3—76 : Governor's charge against D.M.K.

The Tamil Nadu Governor Thiru K. K. Shah said that three of the D.M.K. Ministers preached open secession at a meeting of the Dravida Kazhagam just five days before the imposition of President's Rule in Tamil Nadu.

10—3—76 : English Sections in Tamil Nadu Schools

The Tamil Nadu Government will permit high schools having one English medium section in each class to open another section, " if there is a demand."

Crash Programme for Bore-Wells in Drought hit areas

The Tamil Nadu Government has drawn up a crash programme for sinking bore wells in all the drought-affected areas in the State, Thiru K. K. Shah said.

The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to withdraw with immediate effect the restriction on movement of paddy and rice within the districts, except in the border district of Kanyakumari and in the taluks abutting Kerala in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore Districts.

11—3—76 : Provision for Tuticorin Project " will be adequate "

On his return from Delhi, Thiru Shah said, that provision for the Tuticorin Thermal Scheme in next year's budget will be " adequate " and The Salem Steel Project is also being taken up.

The Flag Day to help the Disabled

The Flag Day for rehabilitation of the disabled was inaugurated on March 10th by the Governor Thiru K. K. Shah. He received flags from Dr. William David, Joint Secretary, Tamil Nadu Association for the rehabilitation of the handicapped and from some inmates of the Social Welfare Centre, Pallavaram.

Rural Bias and Job-orientation in education urged

Inaugurating a three-day seminar on Education for the 21st century under the joint auspices of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SECRT) and the Indian Institute of Technology the Governor said, the pattern of education for the 21st century should have rural bias and job orientation. It should aim at creating an agri-industrial base in villages to prevent migrations of people to urban areas.

16—3—76 : Governor visits Drought areas in Tirunelveli District

The Governor inspected the construction of a new tank undertaken as a drought relief measure under the special minor irrigation programme at Nachiarpuram. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 1.34 lakhs and will irrigate fifty acres.

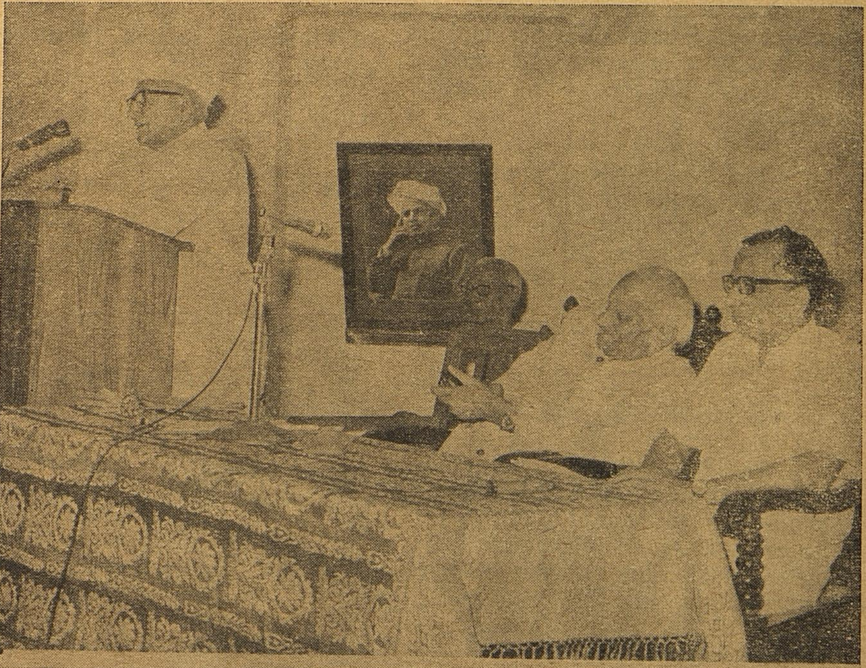
The sanction of the Keeriyar Irrigation Scheme will be taken up after addressing the Kerala Government.

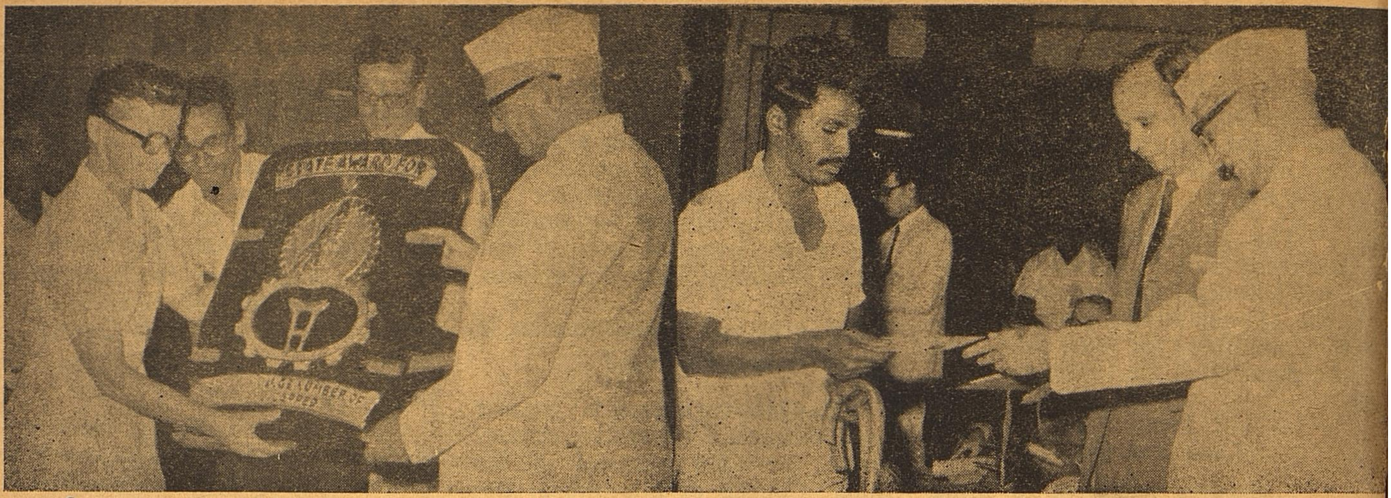
17—3—76 :

The Governor told the villagers of Sathankulam and Tisayanvilai that recovery of all loans would be postponed and kist remission would automatically be granted wherever crops had failed.

It would be better to execute permanent relief works instead of spending large sums of money on temporary measures, told the Governor during this Tour.

Inauguration of City Cleaning Campaign (top) & (below) Governor Confers with writers.





Governor At World Day for Dissabled at Rajaji Hall on 3-4-76.

18—3—76 : Governor's Gesture to Vendor Boy

During the Tirunelveli Tour the Governor offered to arrange for the studies of 12 year old Subbiah, a vendor, at Government cost. He directed a revenue official to make a note that he should be informed of the steps taken for the boy's further studies.

The Governor said that Government proposed to sink deep bore wells, which would be permanently useful, in all the 800 panchayats affected by the drought in Tirunelveli District, during the next two and half months, utilising the 10 rigs at its disposal.

New School Pattern from 1978

Tamil Nadu will fall in line with the other States by adopting from 1978 the new 10-plus two-plus three year education pattern, the first batch taking their pre-degree examination in 1980, announced Thiru K. K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Panel to Screen School Text-Books

A committee is being appointed by the Tamil Nadu Government to screen all existing and forthcoming text books. Any portion of the text books which has a party-oriented approach or angle " will go," said, the Governor.

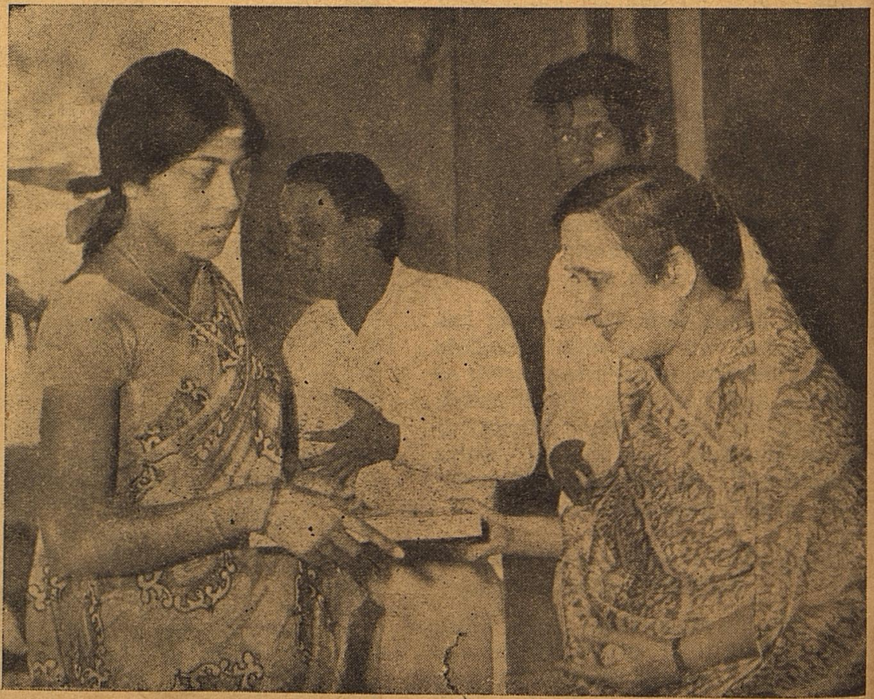
On the language policy, the Governor categorically said that Tamil Nadu would continue to follow the two language formula.

26—3—76

Tamil Nadu Poised for Big Leap Forward

Tamil Nadu is poised for a big leap forward as the imposition of President's rule in Tamil Nadu had made the implementation of the Twenty-Point Programme easy and without any sort of interference. This view was expressed by Tamil Nadu Governor while addressing The Rotary Club of Bombay.

On the recommendation of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, the Government of Tamil Nadu has exempted the deaf children studying in schools upto S.S.L.C. from the study of one of the languages. These students are permitted to appear for the S.S.L.C. public examination with only one language. These students will be eligible for admission to the University Courses of Study, provided they have secured at the public examination the minimum marks prescribed for passing the examination.



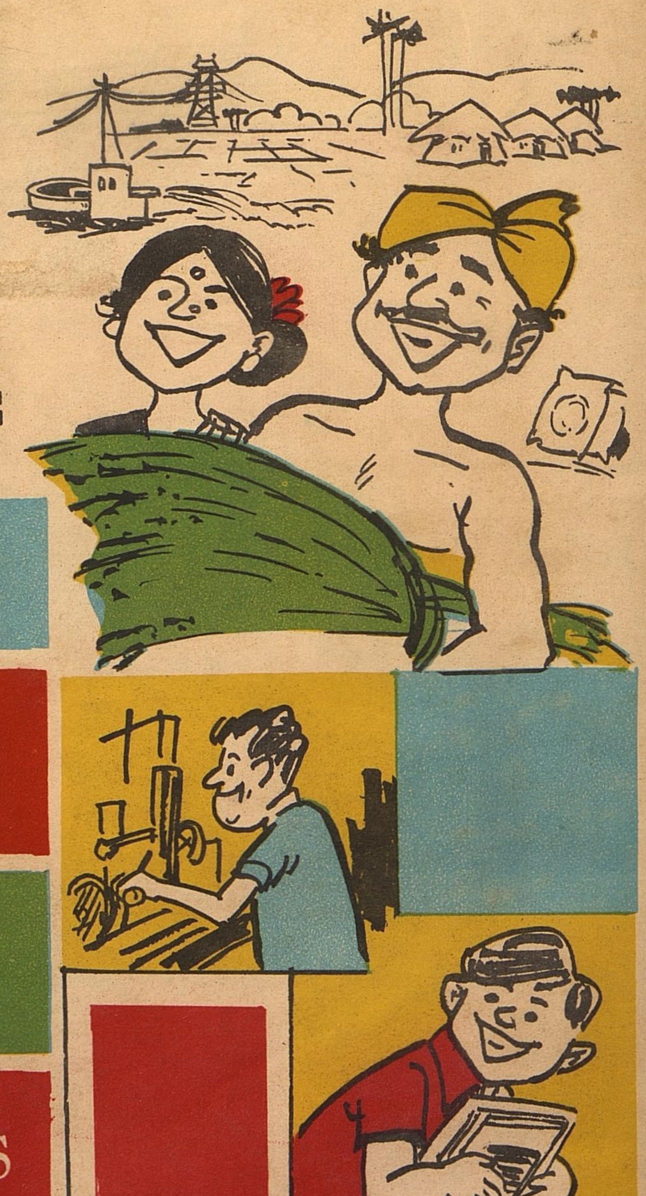
At the hands of Thirumathi Shah, a prize-winner in an essay Contest receives prize at Gandhigiram on 8-2-76.

THE TRIUMPH OF VIRTUE
GREAT ARE THE VIRTUES OF FAMILY PLANNING
FOR THE SMALL FAMILY IS THE BASIS FOR HAPPY HOMES
AND A STRONG PROSPEROUS NATION
THE SMALL FAMILY IS THE NORM
IT WILL DO YOU NO HARM
...FAMILY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Govt of Tamilnadu.

Regd. No. M. 8676-A

THE PRIME MINISTER'S

20 POINT PROGRAMME



IS A BLUE PRINT
FOR PROGRESS

IN THE FARM

IN THE FACTORY

IN THE CAMPUS

WORK IT WITH MIGHT AND MAIN

A PROGRAMME OF WIDE -ANGLED VISION
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